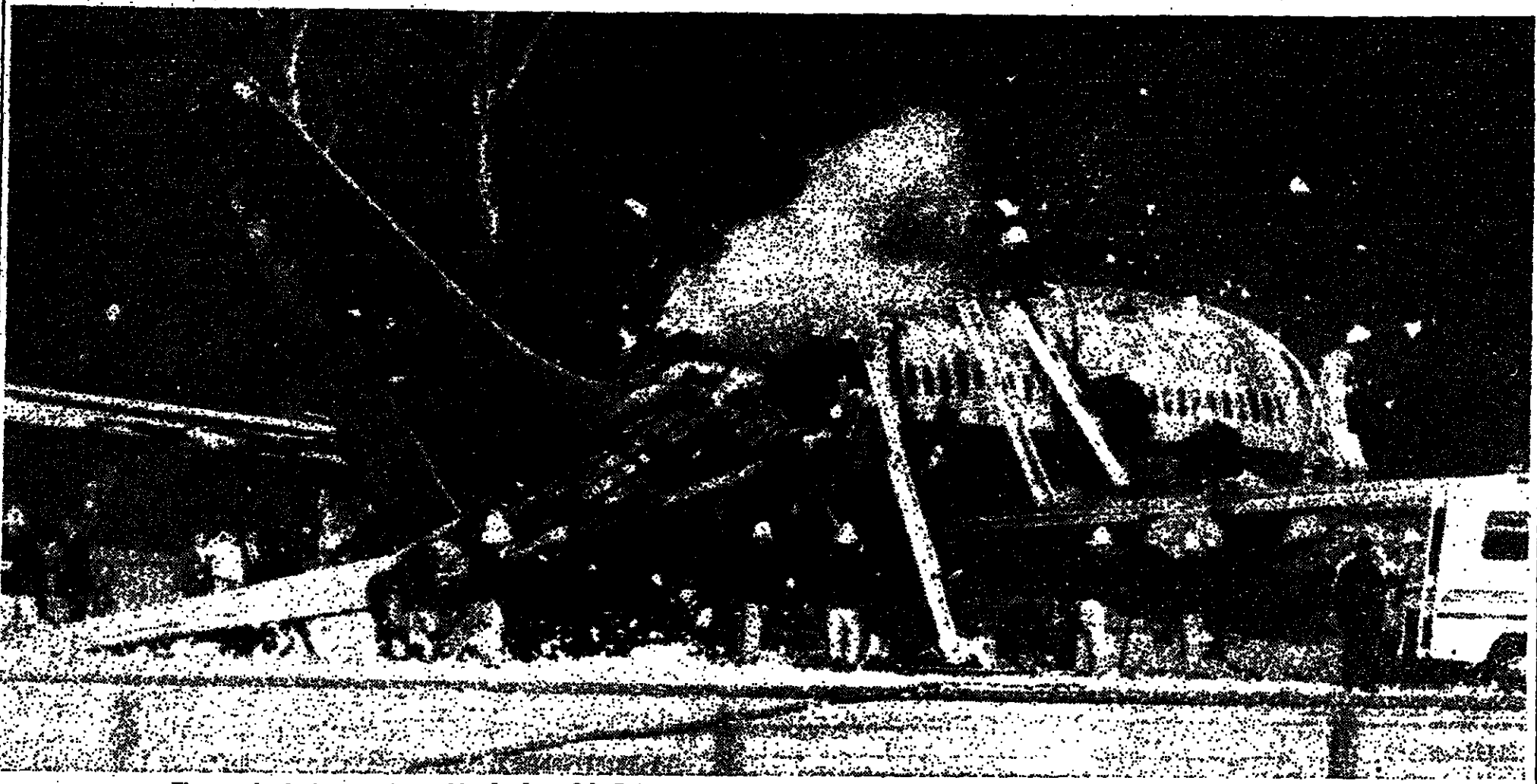


54 die in holiday jet inferno



Fireman clambering over the smoking fuselage of the British Airways Boeing 737 as it lay just off the runway at Manchester Airport yesterday.

'There were loads of kids ... it was like being in hell'

From Peter Davenport, Manchester

Fifty-four passengers on a holiday flight to Corfu died yesterday when the cabin of their jet was turned into an inferno of burning fuel after an engine exploded while the aircraft was taking off from Manchester Airport.

Many of those who died were burned to death still strapped in their seats at the rear of the British Air Tours Boeing 737, flight number KT328.

Within 40 seconds of the engine failing, the jet was engulfed in flames, with temperatures inside reaching at least 500 degrees centigrade.

Eighty-three passengers and crew escaped, many suffering only superficial injuries.

Airport and rescue officials paid tribute to the pilot, Captain Peter Terrington, aged 39, who steered his crippled aircraft off the runway halting it only 200 yards from the airport's fire station. That enabled the emergency services to reach the blazing jet within seconds.

It was the fourth big air disaster in two months and those who survived yesterday spoke of the horror of being trapped inside a skidding, fast-moving aircraft with the fuselage burning not only on the outside but also inside.

There was a second explosion as oxygen supplies on board reacted in the intense heat.

One man who survived said: "There were loads of kids on board but everyone was trampling over everything and anybody to get out. It was like being in hell."

Experts from the Accident Investigation Branch of the Department of Transport flew from their headquarters at Farnborough, Hampshire, to begin an inquiry.

Their first task was an initial inspection of the charred remains of the Boeing named "River Orion", where it lay at the side of the main runway. Its blackened tail section broken off and the roof of the main cabin area split open as if by a giant tin opener.

Last night, Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, chief inspector with the Accident Investigation Branch, said that they had impounded all the aircraft's records.

There was no evidence of its having ingested anything from the runway, nor any evidence of compressor failure. He said the cause of the crash was probably an internal problem rather than external.

Two of the flight recorders had been recovered, he added, although the cockpit voice recorder has not yet been prised from the tangled wreckage. "We have not found any debris that is not related to the aircraft."

The aircraft, he said, was carrying 3,000 gallons of fuel at the time of the crash.

Mr Gil Thompson, chief executive at Manchester airport, said that fuel was sprayed inside the cabin probably through cracks and openings created by the explosion.

He said: "It was like a towering inferno in there. The firemen said they had never seen anything like it for the spread and intensity of the flames."

The rapid spread of the fire shocked fire brigade and rescue officials. The first emergency units were on the scene within a few seconds, but it is believed that many of those trapped in

the rear section may have been dead by the time they got there. Only the two front escape chutes on the Boeing were used; those at the rear failed to function. Some reports spoke of bodies being found against the emergency exit doors, cut down by the flames and fumes as they tried to escape.

Of the 79 survivors taken to hospital, 15 were being detained last night, mainly with shock and burns.

Flight KT328 with 131 passengers including two infants and six members of crew, was taking off at about 100mph, travelling along Manchester's main runway 2406 at 7.13am when disaster struck.

In a message to the control tower, the pilot spoke of a "problem" with his port engine. He was only seconds from take-off, having travelled two thirds of the length of the 10,000ft runway.

Some passengers thought the explosion was a burst tyre, but once they looked from their windows those on the port side could see flames licking the wing and spreading along the fuselage.

The remaining working engine slewed the aircraft to the right and the pilot fought to get it clear of the runway and as close as possible to the fire station.

Smoke from the fire that broke out after the explosion in the port engine spread rapidly inside the cabin and then, according to the passengers, within seconds flames started licking the roof at the back of the jet.

Appeals by the pilot and cabin crew for calm were ignored as passengers scrambled over each other trying to escape.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Thatcher praise for emergency services

The Prime Minister said yesterday that she was appalled at the scale of the tragedy which had engulfed holiday flight Juliet Lima.

She was speaking at Manchester airport after she and her husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, had inspected the charred wreckage of the Boeing 737.

The airliner was still surrounded by fire engines and emergency vehicles as the Prime Minister arrived straight from her holiday in Austria.

Mrs Thatcher, who was clearly shocked by the visible damage to the aircraft, promised a thorough investigation.

The smell of aviation fuel still hung in the air around the wreckage as Mrs Thatcher discussed the disaster with Chief Inspector Geoffrey Wilkinson, of the accident investigation branch, who is leading the inquiry.

Mrs Thatcher said that the actions of the aircraft's crew, people on the ground, ambulance and firemen had been "superb".

The crew had managed to get off as many people as possible and ground staff had risked their lives to get people off the plane.

The Queen sent a message of sympathy from Balmoral to the bereaved and injured. She said: "I have been most distressed to hear of the dreadful accident and large loss of life to the British Airways aircraft at Manchester."

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, asked Mr Roger Stott, an opposition spokesman on transport, to go to Manchester immediately and offer any help he could.

Two theories studied on cause of disaster

By Robin Young

British Airways' investigators were last night working on two theories on the cause of the Manchester disaster.

The explanation originally favoured was that the Boeing 737's Pratt and Whitney JT8D-9 engine had failed to contain a massive turbine failure, and that the aviation fuel tanks were ruptured by white-hot flying debris.

The second theory is that the original fault may have occurred in the 1 1/2 inch diameter fuel pipe leading down the wing to the engine pod. Fuel escaping from a broken pipe could itself have caused the explosion which blew the engine apart.

Turbine engines are designed and certified to be strong enough to contain a turbine blade failure, but it is accepted that no engine shell can possibly be made strong enough to withstand the impact if a whole turbine disc disintegrates, or if several discs fly apart simultaneously. The discs are about the size of a car wheel.

At peak power for take-off turbine blades in the JT8D-9 engine revolve at 30,000 rpm, and the blade tips reach

temperatures of 1,500 degrees Celsius. The temperature of the main body of the turbine is 600 degrees.

The Pratt and Whitney JT8 series engines power Boeing 727 and 737s, the world's two most popular airliners, which between them account for more than half of the world's airline fleets. Just as the Boeing 737 has hitherto been considered an extraordinarily safe plane, the Pratt and Whitney engine is well tried and tested, and has an extremely good safety record.

As an example of this, in-flight shut down rates reported by the world's airlines each month for the Pratt and Whitney engines are commonly as low as 0.02 or 0.03. The engines on Jumbo 747s are shut down in-flight because of emergency or failure almost 10 times as frequently.

British Airways suffered an uncontained turbine failure in the Rolls-Royce RB211 engine on a Boeing 757 leaving Heathrow a few weeks ago. But on that occasion debris flew into the cabin air conditioning but fortunately missed the fuel tanks.

Continued on page 2 col 1

More BR men sent home on ballot eve

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Editor

British Rail last night sent dismissal letters to a further 33 guards on the eve of the National Union of Railwaymen's ballot on industrial action over one-man trains.

Eastern Region went ahead with dismissals after only 15 of the 47 guards on strike at Immingham for a fortnight went back to work before yesterday's management deadline. The dismissals, together with another at Llanelli, brought the total since the dispute began to 246.

The Immingham dismissals threaten disruption of services on the East Coast main line between London and Edinburgh on Bank Holiday Monday. Guards based at Doncaster are expected to strike for 24 hours in support of the Immingham man. British Rail said last night that if all 150 come out 20 per cent of main line services could be affected along with the local Hull to Sheffield route. The Doncaster guards are expected to seek support from signalmen.

At Immingham, the guards' strike started when management decided to extend the use of driver-only operation of iron ore trains between the port and the British Steel Corporation plant at Scunthorpe. The NUR claimed yesterday that the dismissals would harden opinion in today's national ballot of all 11,000 guards.

A 24-hour strike by more than 100 guards at Paddington, London, reduced intercity and suburban services yesterday by about 20 per cent and those on the Paddington-Oxford-Newbury line by 40 per cent. There was continued disruption of Glasgow suburban services and those between Hertfordshire and Kings Cross and Moorgate, in London.

British Rail has taken advertisements in most national newspapers today declaring that the guards are being asked to "give a mandate to cause chaos" and exhorting them to "think of your future".

NUR leaders hope that the announcement this morning of what they expect to be a landslide majority in the union's political fund ballot will act as springboard for today's vote. Action could start swiftly after the announcement of the result, probably on Tuesday, but is likely to stop well short of a national strike. It could combine an overtime ban with selective stoppages.

Urging guards to reject strike action, Mr Christopher Green, general manager of Scotrail, warned them that 400 jobs and five lines in Strathclyde could be lost (Ronald Faux writes). The three-week shut-down had diverted 500,000 passenger journeys to buses and cars and cost £500,000 in lost revenue.

Continued on page 2 col 1

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Bank Holiday special
Prize Jumbo crossword:
Best of British
safari parks;
On the beach,
and best outings
Weekend of sport
Football, cricket and
Dutch Grand Prix
preview;
Berlin athletics report.

Portfolio
The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared between three winners yesterday. Mr. Reuben Foster of Berkhamstead, Mr. David Finn of Londonderry, and Mr. Clive Foskett of Hassocks, Sussex, each received £1,333. Portfolio list, page 16. How to play, Information Service, back page.

Mirror group closes in London

Publication of London editions of Mirror Group Newspapers was suspended by Mr Robert Maxwell last night. The papers affected are *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *Sunday People* and *Sporting Life*.

Mr Maxwell said that the decision came after what he described as "anarchical action" by members of the print union, the National Graphical Association, which cost the Mirror 750,000 copies on Wednesday night.

Sri Lanka blow

Talks in Bhutan intended to end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka have broken down, leading to fears that the island will be plunged into further violence.

Horizon losses

Horizon Travel suffered operating losses of £1.6 million in the half-year to end May, but sales of aircraft brought it back into profit.

Police spotlight

The Social Democratic Party issued a policy document, *Crime and Policing*, in which it says a standing commission should be appointed to investigate operational decisions by the police.

Insurance blow

Lloyds of London is forecast to break even for 1982 despite an estimated record underwriting loss of £500 million.

Church reprisal

An Andalusian woman who took advantage of Spain's new abortion law has been excommunicated together with the medical team who performed the operation.

Teachers' pay

Local authority employers are considering a package for reform of teachers' pay which could give those in the classroom an extra £330.

Punjab go-ahead

The election in Punjab will go ahead on September 25 despite opposition demands for a postponement after the assassination of the Sikh Akali Dal leader.

Bank strike off

The threatened Ulster bank strike was called off after talks in Belfast.

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Letters: On the BBC, from Mr Barry Cox and others; MORI, from Mr Paul Tyler
Leading articles: India; crime and punishment
Features, pages 8-10

Aviation's crisis of confidence: NATO's conflict with strategies; David Watt on South African realities; Spectrum: the Rainbow Warrior's murky undercurrents. Friday Page: track and field in the valley
Obituary, page 12

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Starting boosted, page 13

Gloomy US figures boost pound

By David Smith
The pound rose 1.63 cents to \$1.4073 yesterday, in response to new evidence of continuing weakness in the American economy. The sterling index against all currencies rose 0.7 to 51.4073.

Later in New York, the pound was trading at \$1.4010.

The dollar fell because dealers think that another cut in United States interest rates will be required after figures released by the Commerce Department in Washington yesterday showed manufacturers' orders for durable goods down 2.8 per cent last month. Consumer prices rose 0.2 per cent, showing inflation steady at a 3.5 per cent annual rate.

In London, new figures from the Government showed that Britain's balance of payments was in better shape than originally thought last year. The surplus on current account in 1984 was revised up from £624 million to £935 million. Without the coal strike, the surplus would have been around £1.75 billion better, officials believe.

Despite the pound's rise, there was little hope in the money markets yesterday that base rates could be brought down quickly.

Starting boosted, page 13

US tries to cool spy dust row

From Michael Binyon, Washington
The Reagan Administration denied yesterday that it was trying to sabotage the coming Reagan-Gorbachev summit by revealing Soviet use of chemical powders to track US diplomats.

The State Department rejected Soviet accusations that it was trying to poison the atmosphere, and said its only interest was to protect the health of US diplomats. Preparations for the Geneva meeting and other US-Soviet visits would continue.

The White House said the row over the tracking chemical "should not have an effect, for our part, on the November meeting".

In the past week however, the Administration has publicly challenged Moscow three times with a rhetoric that seems calculated to put it on the defensive.

The latest accusation can only enrage the Kremlin. However, the Administration is deeply pessimistic about the chances of any arms agreement emerging, is nervous about the

skill with which the Russians are presenting their case to the West.

There are divisions over the feasibility of any arms agreement with Moscow at present, with hardliners fighting to prevent any concessions being made.

The Administration fears Moscow may use the divisions to undermine the US position, pointing to disarray in Washington in the case of breakdown.

Embassy fears, page 6

Hunt for top Bonn spy-catcher

Bonn (Reuters) - West Germany's counter-intelligence service announced yesterday that one of its own senior officers had gone missing and security sources said there were fears he was in East Germany.

A spokesman in Cologne for the counter-intelligence service, officially known as the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, said a departmental chief in counter-espionage operations had disappeared after reporting sick on Monday and urgent enquiries had been started.

The sources identified him as Hans Tiedge, in his early 50s, and said he was one of West Germany's top spy-busters with responsibility for combating East German espionage networks.

There were fears that Herr Tiedge, who was in ill health and has personal difficulties, might have cracked under the strain and defected to the East in a "panic move".

Leaking security, page 6

Test-tube quads for father aged 70

By Thomas Prentice
Science Correspondent
A man aged 70 is to be the father of test-tube quadruplets after his wife received treatment at a National Health Service fertility clinic.

The babies will be the second set of quads to be born within 18 months at the Hammer-smith Hospital, west London, after in-vitro fertilization. Their arrival is likely to renew debate among infertility specialists about the risks of producing multiple births.

The parents of the quads are Mr. Toni del Renzio, an art historian, and his wife Doris, aged 38. He is believed to be the oldest parent of IVF offspring. The couple have been

married for 14 years and have been trying to have a child for at least eight years.

"It is a daunting prospect to be suddenly presented with four children and I must admit I would have been happier if we had been able to have just one baby," Mr del Renzio said yesterday.

However, the hospital told us there was a risk of a multiple birth and we took this risk knowingly. Whatever problems we may now face as a family will be outweighed by the joy of becoming parents at last.

Mrs del Renzio has been an in-patient at the hospital for several weeks. The babies are expected to be born towards the end of next month.

My wife would have been delighted with a single baby but she is very happy to be having four. She is absolutely blooming," Mr del Renzio said.

Mr del Renzio has been married twice before but has no previous children. He and his wife met when he was a lecturer in art history in Bath and she was an art student.

Mr del Renzio was born in the Soviet Union in 1915, but his parents took him to Italy during the Revolution. He fought with the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War and was involved with the French resistance during the Second World War.

His colourful career has included work as an art director

on magazines and designs work in Italian film and television. He was involved in the production of Italian "spaghetti westerns" and even had a walk-on part in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, starring Clint Eastwood.

He and his wife, who is German born of Estonian parents, live in a two-bedroomed house in Kent.

"We are obviously faced with substantial practical and financial problems," Mr del Renzio said. "I have no income apart from my state pension and from the occasional art review or lecture."

"But I hope to be able to have a small extension built to

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'Flames came in the cabin; I felt this blast of searing heat. . .

Survivors tell of screams and panic as flames swept disaster jet

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Survivors of the crash described the panic that seized those on Flight KT378 as smoke and then flames engulfed the rear of the aircraft, trapping dozens of screaming passengers. Mr Michael Loftus, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, said: "We seemed to be just getting up to take-off speed when there was a loud bang. It was as if we had hit something on the runway or a tyre had blown out. The pilot braked immediately and the aircraft seemed to come to a halt pretty quick."

He carried his daughter Joanne, aged four, out of the aircraft as he saw flames and smoke coming into the cabin. People started to panic straight away, although some were shouting "Don't panic, sit down."

The pilot came on the tannoy and said "Stay in your seats and keep the seat belts fastened", but it was too late because everyone was panicking," Mr Loftus added.

His wife Hilary, who was holding their son Daniel, aged two, said: "There were no chutes on our side of the plane. The door was open, but I could not see anything but from the firemen."

I had Daniel in my arms and when I got on to the wing Michael appeared out of the foam below and shouted "Jump". So I closed my eyes and jumped and he grabbed us," she said.

Mr Loftus said he had gone out on to the wing and must have fallen to the tarmac. After taking his daughter to safety he had returned to see his wife sitting on the plane's wing.

Mr Mike Mather, of Barton, Greater Manchester said: "We knew there were people in there who had no chance of getting out alive. Anyone who was left in there after we didn't stand a chance. I am just glad to be alive."

"It was mass panic. People were falling over each other and the heat was tremendous. "Flames were coming out of the engines and we thought it was going to blow up. Smoke was coming along the roof inside the cabin and getting through the smoke was like trying to go against a brick wall," Mr Mather, aged 21, from Northwich, Cheshire, said.

He added later: "We were three quarters of the way down the runway, doing about 100

mph, when there was a loud bang from one of the engines.

"You could see flames shooting past the windows, but we all thought the fire would go out when we stopped and they got the fire extinguishers going. But the smoke and flames started coming into the cabin. There was panic as people started queuing to get out of the plane."

"There were about thirty people in front of me and as I went down the chute I felt this blast of searing heat. It hit the back of my throat and tasted like acid."

He did not know that his girl friend had got out "until I saw her on the tarmac wandering away from the wreckage."

Mr Mark Tadock, aged 19, a Slater, also from Northwich, said the captain's appeal over the tannoy for calm was ignored and, as people reached one of the emergency doors, they were pushed down the escape chute by the co-pilot.

He said it was impossible to see through the smoke and flames to the back of the aircraft and the blanket of smoke rapidly moved towards the front of the cabin.

Mr Ellis Wardle, aged 20, also from Northwich, said: "Every-one was trying to get out at the same time. The smoke was coming down like a train and we were told to hold our breath for as long as we could."

In the mêlée he had lost his girl friend, Miss Debbie Wilson, aged 19. "At first I could not see her. Then I spotted her and grabbed her by the wrist and together we got out by the chute."

Mr Keith Middleton, aged 21, unemployed, of Walton, Liverpool, described how one of the stewards walked down the aisle with a microphone asking people to stay in their seats. "He was looking anxiously through the windows and when I looked at the left hand side window it was almost enveloped in flames."

Mr Middleton, who was going on holiday with his girl friend, Miss Kerry Coyle, also 21 and from Walton, said: "Everyone got pushed into the aisle trying to get out of the plane. There was a lot of pushing and jostling."

"I could not see past the middle of the plane because of

the smoke, but I could hear terrible screams and shouting."

"Flames were billowing into the plane and I couldn't breathe. It was just a thick black smoke-filled aeroplane. Everyone was screaming and shouting. They were diving out of their seats and everyone was pushing."

"People were trying to get out of the windows and running down the plane as fast as they could. We could hear the pilot trying to say something over the intercom, but no one could hear him properly."

"People were falling on to the floor and getting trampled on. One of the stewards grabbed me and threw me down one of the chutes."

Mr David Ashworth, of Bury, Greater Manchester, said there was a loud bang and panic immediately broke out. There were smoke and flames inside the cabin almost as soon as the plane came to a halt near the end of the runway.

Mr Ashworth, a businessman, said it was impossible for people at the rear of the plane to escape because of the pressure of bodies as they tried to get out in the choking fumes.

Mr Alan Peets, of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, was sitting in the fifth row when he heard a "big bang". He said: "I thought there had been a puncture. At first everyone was all right, and then they panicked."

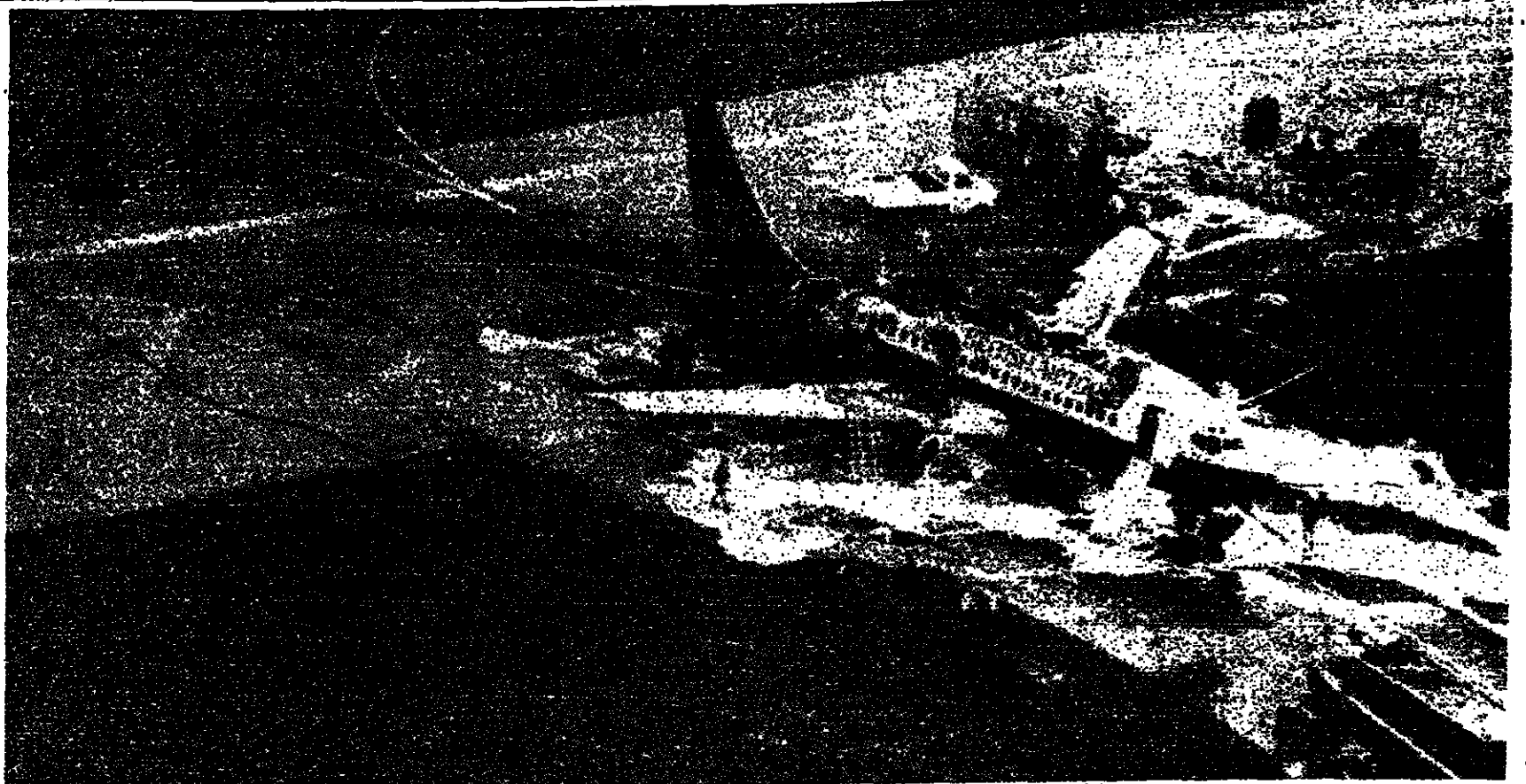
The Rev Ronald Clark, chaplain of Wythenshawe Hospital where the injured were taken, said the survivors "had horrifying stories to tell."

"It seems that most of those killed were in the back of the aircraft and were trapped by flames and smoke, and quickly panicked. Those in front could hear them trying to get out, but they were trapped."

"Those I spoke to escaped by climbing out onto the wing, leaping down chutes or simply dropping out of the plane. Some couldn't remember how they had got out."

"When they arrived at the hospital most were soaked with foam from the fire hoses."

"They say that, once the fire started, the cabin filled with thick smoke and fumes in a matter of seconds. That is what caused the panic because no one could breathe and they couldn't find their way out."



The view from the air at Manchester airport yesterday where the British Airtours Boeing lay off the runway (Photograph: Mike Aron)

Subsidiary of BA operates separately

British Airtours is the charter flight subsidiary of British Airways and operates almost as a separate airline. Its aircraft fleet of 11 Boeing 737 and seven Lockheed TriStars carries several million passengers a year and employs 2,000 staff. It provides package holiday flights to BA's own holiday companies, Sovereign and Enterprise, and sells seats to other main holiday groups.

The company, whose headquarters are at Gatwick airport, started operating in March 1970 with nine Comets and in recent years has greatly expanded its operations mainly to destinations in Europe, principally Mediterranean resorts, and various points in North America.

It carries about 16 per cent of the total passengers on British charter holiday flights but also flies some BA scheduled routes.

The plane involved in yesterday's accident was just over four years old.

Shift change gave double staff

By David Felton

The accident procedure which began within minutes of the disaster was last tested in a trial about 15 months ago, and was last used in earnest seven years ago when there was a serious fire at Wythenshawe hospital during a firemen's strike.

The hospital, two miles from Manchester airport, was the focus of the medical operation yesterday and is one of several large hospitals which serves the southern part of Greater Manchester. Staff received 81 survivors from the aircraft in two and a half hours.

The hospital was well placed to cope with the emergency because the first casualties started arriving while the night and day shifts were changing over, and so for a period the hospital was effectively operating on double staffing.

Medical and administration staff were also helped by the fact that there have been many empty beds in the hospital during the holiday period.

The injured started arriving at about 7.30am, and within four hours all but 15, who were detained overnight, had been sent home, having been treated for injuries including inhalation of smoke and fumes, superficial burns, and minor fractures.

One of the 15, a middle-aged man, was in the intensive care unit. The rest were described as in a serious condition.

A further three passengers were transferred to the specialist burns unit at Withington hospital near by and staff thought it possible that more of those detained at Wythenshawe might also need to be transferred for treatment for burns.

Mr Wynn Griffiths, administrator at Wythenshawe hospital, said that the accident procedure started when a telephone call was received from Manchester airport.

The hospital started ringing specialist staff to bring them into the hospital, and at a peak period more than 50 nurses and 20 to 30 doctors were treating patients.

A team of doctors was dispatched to the airport to gauge the immediate injuries and needs of those leaving the plane so that they could be sent to the right hospital.

The fact that most of those taken to the hospital were not seriously injured helped emergency procedures to run smoothly.

Mr John Evans, the consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the hospital, said that the inhalation of smoke and fumes, which may have come from burning plastic in the lining of the aircraft fuselage and seat covers, could cause conjunctivitis and acute inflammation of the lungs, making it difficult to breathe. However, in most cases, such inflammation would not lead to permanent lung damage.

Beds were set aside at the hospital to take in the crash victims.

Among those taken into the hospital were several young children and a boy of eight or nine was among those detained last night.

54 die in holiday jet runway inferno

Continued from page 1

the fumes and smoke. Several of the crew threw passengers down emergency escape chutes.

But the survivors said that those in the cabin's rear seats had no chance. Only their screams could be heard by those struggling with each other to reach the emergency exits.

As soon as the aircraft stopped, fire units began to saturate the fuselage with foam.

At one point it seemed that the fire was under control and two firemen scrambled inside, but then exploding oxygen supplies started the blaze again and the firemen were blown out of the aircraft by the blast.

Inside the burning fuselage there was panic. One of those on board, Mr Ellis Ward, aged 20, was flying for the first time. He said later:

"We saw the fire in the wing when the plane was moving and people started to panic, but the stewardesses calmed them down."

"We were told to stay in our seats and some sort of order was established, but then I looked behind and I saw that the flames were already coming inside the aeroplane. The fire seemed to be coming through the fuselage."

"There was no way that anyone was going to stay in their seat. People started moving forward away from the flames, but the fire was getting closer and then a haze of smoke came over all our heads making it difficult to see."

"I looked around for my girl friend and she was just behind me. We went down the chute and landed in foam."

The fire brigade had got there very quickly and we were helped up and someone got us on to a bus. I did not look back. I did not want to see any more."

People leaving the aircraft were put into buses and ambulances and taken to Wythenshawe Hospital, two miles away, which is designated as the main receiving centre for casualties in the event of a disaster at the airport.

Dazed and bewildered, those not seriously hurt wandered around the hospital looking for friends and relations. Some people left in tears after being told that their families were not on the list of people admitted to the hospital.

Several clergymen arrived to comfort the injured and their families, but those not being detained were quickly taken away in taxis to their families.

Those first out of the aircraft were passengers sitting at the front of the cabin, including a couple from Stockport, Greater Manchester, who were sitting near an emergency door and left with their two children by climbing out on to the wing.

There was praise from the survivors for the bravery of a stewardess who got clear, only to go back inside to help others to escape. Two of the stewardesses on duty at the rear of the aircraft were believed to be among the dead.

A fire officer, Mr Robert Docherty, told how he battled his way inside the blazing jet and found dozens of bodies piled against the emergency exits.

Mr Docherty, divisional officer of the Greater Manchester brigade, managed to help one passenger to escape through a front door. He arrived at the scene within 15 seconds of the alarm being raised and was among the first of the emergency services to board the aircraft.

"All the people that were still alive had been got out of the plane, but we helped to rescue one man who was still struggling to find his way out", he said.

Correction

Mr Jack Henry is standing for re-election to the executive of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, contrary to our report on August 17 that the election was to find a successor.



Mrs Thatcher at the crash scene, where she went immediately upon returning from Austria

Theories on fuel leak or turbine rupture

Continued from page 1

In many ways yesterday's disaster at Manchester parallels the fate of the BOAC Boeing 707 Gulfstream Whiskey-Echo at Heathrow in April 1968. Two minutes after take-off the pilot reported that his Rolls-Royce port inner engine was on fire.

He managed to turn back to Heathrow and crash land before the plane burst into flames from end to end. Only five people, one of them a stewardess who turned back to help the last remaining passengers, died in the fire, while 121 escaped.

At Manchester yesterday there was no such luck. The intensity and spontaneity of the fire has convinced experts that the initial explosion was such that burning fuel was flying everywhere, and poured into the fuselage and the holds beneath the passenger cabins.

The instantaneous way in which the fire spread is one reason why investigators will find it difficult to determine whether the original fault was in the turbine or in the fuel pipe. Visibility in the rear cabin was nil, with black smoke and flames, within moments of the explosion. The temperature of the fire is estimated to have been 500 degrees.

The Civil Aviation Authority notified airlines in June that

from July 1 1986 all newly manufactured passenger seats would have to have a thin fire-block layer. The CAA says that the flammability of seat upholstery can be a major factor in spreading cabin fire. Accident specialists doubt that it played much part on this occasion.

All aircraft are certified only when it can be shown that all the passengers can get out within 90 seconds with half the exits blocked. Those trying to escape from the Boeing Juliet-Lima yesterday did not have 90 seconds.

If turbine failure was the cause of the disaster it could have arisen in a number of ways. The most obvious are metal fatigue, or the ingestion of some foreign body.

There has also been some criticism of British Airtours maintenance levels and engineering standards, from the main airline's personnel. They claim that British Airways' supervisors have been sent to Gatwick to sign out British Airtours' engineers' work because of dissatisfaction with its standard.

A British Airways spokesman last night denied this allegation. BA also formally denied that the plane had been victim of a bird strike last Monday.

Insurance Premiums to rise after £300m hull losses

By Richard Thomson

The Manchester airframe disaster confirms this year so far as the worst on record for aviation insurers, experts in the Lloyd's insurance market said yesterday.

The insurance cover for the British Airtours 737 was £14 million, bringing estimated aircraft hull losses to more than £300 million with more than half the year gone. In the first half of last year hull losses amounted to £23 million.

Passenger deaths, which usually constitute the largest cost in insurance claims, are also reaching a record. Mr Barry Coleman, of Lloyd's aviation committee, said: "There have been more deaths even than 1983 which was one of the worst years on record."

He added that the effect of the losses would be to reduce aviation reinsurance capacity next year, pushing premium rates up sharply. Premium rate increases this year have been small.

Injured passengers, or the dependants of dead passengers, are entitled to maximum compensation from British airlines on international and internal flights of Special

Drawing Rights \$100,000 (£74,000). This is more than most other international airlines provide and a higher limit than any other European country. A more common upper limit is SDR \$80,000 (£59,200), although some airlines provide a limit as little as \$20,000 on international flights.

The compensation payments for people killed or injured in the Manchester disaster are unlikely to be as high as £74,000, however. Compensation payments in Britain are linked to loss of earnings and support of dependants. They are lower than in Japan and the US. Claims in the US tend to take hardship and suffering into account as well.

Ironically, if a whole family is wiped out in an air disaster the size of claim is likely to be much smaller because there are no dependants to receive a compensation award.

Awards also depend on the individual. If there were many children on the holiday flight claims would be lower, insurance experts said. Compensation awards for children killed in British air disasters tend to be about £1,000.

More than 1,000 people have died in air crashes this year and yesterday's crash was the fourth airline disaster in two months (Reuters reports).

Last year was one of the safest years in aviation history with 200 people reported killed in seven big airline disasters.

1985 has seen the world's worst single-aircraft crash and the world's biggest airline disaster at sea. Yesterday's disaster

came 10 days after a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashed into mountainside near Tokyo on a domestic flight, killing 320 people.

An Air India Boeing 747 plummeted into the sea off Ireland on June 23. The aircraft was on a flight from Montreal, Canada, to India. Air 329 passengers and crew were killed.

The causes of the JAL and

Air India crashes are still under investigation.

On August 3, 133 people died in the United States when a Delta Airlines Lockheed wide-bodied jet crashed on its final approach to Dallas-Fort Worth airport on a flight from Florida.

The worst air disaster in Britain occurred in June 1972, when 118 people were killed in a BEA Trident crash near Staines, Middlesex.

Crashes involving British planes, 1984

Nov 2, 1984: A Bristol Bell helicopter working near North Sea Oil rig fell into the sea, killing its 2 crew.

Incidents involving British planes, 1985

Jan 14: Monarch 757 suffered double electrical power failure en route from Tenerife to Luton. Diverted to Lisibon with 184 passengers. No injuries.

April 9: British Airways 757 forced to shut down one engine at 8,000 ft, near Heathrow. 119 passengers and eight crew, no injuries.

May 27: British Airtours TriStar over-ran the runway while landing. 416 people on board, no injuries.

Engine failure/fire on aircraft

1984

Fatal: August 30: A Cameroon AL Boeing 737 engine compressor rupture, holding fuel tank, and causing fire over Douala. Three passengers died.

Sept 11: MMM Herald attempted forced landing after engine failure. Zaire. Thirty dead, some rescued.

August 16: Damin Av helicopter suffers uncontained engine failure Fort Dix. One crew died.

August 22: Heliservice heli-

copter fell into sea after engine failure at 30m. One member of crew died.

Nov 1: Pennzoil helicopter suffers uncontrolled engine failure over China Sea. One crew and four passengers died.

Non-fatal: Jan 12: Pan Am 747 suffered engine failure, on take-off from Heathrow.

Jan 13: F27 double engine failure just after take-off at New York.

Feb 13: Indian Airlines A300 engine on mechanical failure and fire en route from Bombay.

March 22: Pacific Western 737-200 compressor disc failure during take-off run. Fire.

June 2: Air India 747 fire in number four engine, possibly external fuel leak. Bangkok. One passenger injured.

June 13: Austrian Airlines DC9 uncontained engine failure en route from Vienna.

Sept 12: Air Canada DC99 Boston, single engine failure.

Sept 29: Northwest 747 at Seattle, engine mechanical failure.

Sept 29: Air Zimbabwe 707, severe fire in number one engine while parked at Gatwick.

Oct 3 CP Air 747, single engine fire en route from Vancouver. Oct 28 Air France Concorde, small electrical wir-

The passengers who survived are:

Mr P Ashworth, Mrs J Ashworth, Mrs G and D Ashworth, of Greenmount Drive, Bury, Greater Manchester; Miss C Bailey; Miss Wendy S Beal, of Whitgate, Garsington Grove, Sale, Greater Manchester.

Mr J Beardmore, Mrs P Beardmore, Mr D Beardmore, all of Holmes, Chapel Road, Congleton, Cheshire; Miss K Blackwell, of Mill Lane, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire; Miss S Chappell; Miss K S Coyle, of York Street, Walton, Liverpool.

Miss T Coston, of Pinfold Ave, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs; Mr W Crompton; Mrs G Crompton and Miss A Crompton, all of Marland, Bolton; Mr E Davies, Mrs Lindsay Davies, Julie and Patricia Davies, of Langacre, Bishops Town, Swansea, Glamorgan; Mr Ditchfield, of Waterside, Apollonia, Cheshire.

Miss L Elliott, of Speedwell Close, Haswell, Wirral, Merseyside; Miss A L Findlay, of Bingley, W Yorkshire; Miss L Hargreaves, of The Cotton Hotel, Knutsford, Cheshire; Catherine Harrison, of Nicholas Way, Wetherby, W Yorks; Mr C C Hickson, of Linbeck Cres, Moss Side, Manchester.

Mrs Carol Hughes, of Middleton, Manchester; Mr J Hughes, Miss A Hughes, of Liverpool Rd, Haydock, Merseyside; Mr S R Hutchinson, Mr R Hutchinson, of Stannard House, Wakefield, W Yorks; Miss S Jessop, of Boundary House, Northenden, Greater Manchester; Mr L Jinks, Mrs M Jinks, of Broadway, Fleetwood, Lancashire; Mr J C Lawrence, and Master J Lawrence, both of Linley Lane, Fritchville, Sheffield; Mr M Loftus, Mrs H Loftus, Miss J M Loftus, and D J Loftus, of Macclesfield Rd, Hazelgrove, Greater Manchester; Mr J. McDonald, Mrs J. McDonald, and Miss A. McDonald, of Nether, Highlands, Scotland; Miss A. McGowan, of Ajax Drive, Bury, Greater Manchester; Miss F. Malone, of Garston Drive, Garston, Liverpool; Mr M. Mather, of Runcorn Rd, Barton, Manchester; Mr R. Metcalf, of Longshore Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr K. Middleton, Mr J. Milne, of Tarmod, Green, Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside; Miss C. Moorhouse, of Well Meadow Lane, Upper Mill, Oldham, Manchester; Mr M. Nind, and Mrs J. Nind, of Silverdale Ave, Worcester; Miss S. L. Palm, of Hill Court, Cliff Drive, Leeds, W. Yorks.

ing fire. Paris. Oct 30 South African Airlines A300, engine mechanical failure and fire, Durban. Nov 1 Air Pacific DC10, number two engine failure. Nadi, Nov 16 Bangladesh 707, number three engine failure and fire. Non-fatal: non-scheduled passenger flights - engine failure/fire. Jan 16 DC 3 number one engine failure and fire. June 5 720 number three engine failure and fire. Aug 6 Air Botswana F27, number two engine failure and fire on take-off from Johannesburg. Nov 18 National Airways 747, number three engine failure and fire, climbing from Las Vegas. Non-fatal, non-passenger flights - engine failure/fire. May 6 C46, engine fire at 5000 ft. Returned safely, but aircraft written off: en route from Bolivia. Nov 19 SIA 757, number two engine caught fire during crew training, Seattle.

Engine failure/fire first half 1985

Fatal: Jan 19, 1985: Cubana II-18. Engine failure on take off from Havana; 35 passengers and five crew died.

Feb 22, 1985: Air Mali An-24. Engine failure after take-off, engine fire and explosion over Timbuktu. 48 passengers and two crew died.

Mr S. Parr, of Kingham Close, Woolton, Merseyside; Mr R. Peart, of Cotton Grove, Sunningdale, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mrs M. Peart; Mr A. Peets, of Smithley Bridge Rd, Middleton, Manchester; Mr N. J. Roberts, of Penfold Ave, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs; Miss M. Robertson, of Clough Lane, Oldham; Miss J. Royle, of Altrincham, Manchester.

Miss D. Smith, of Longside Lane, Bury; Mr A. P. Snowden, of Clough Ave, Sale, Manchester; Mr J. D. Southworth, of Penwortham, Preston, Lancs; Mr P. Speed, Mrs L. Speed, and Miss L. Speed, Olive Avenue, Sharnbrook, Derby.

Mr M. Tadlock, of Ashwood Crescent, Northwich, Cheshire; Miss M. Taylor, of Woodfield, Wigan, Manchester; Mr Aiden Thomas, of Chalmers Rd, W. Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside; David Thomas, Wendy Joanne, and Caroline Thomas, of North Wales; Mr K. Tweedle.

Mr E. Wardle, of Farm Rd, Weaverham, Northwich; Miss P. Whalley, of Greenway, Penwytham, Preston; Mrs Dorothy Wilson; Miss Deborah Ann Wilson, of Huntersfield, The Pippens, Northwich, Cheshire.

People in there had no chance of getting out alive'

Hunt for clues in wreckage

Investigators from the accident investigation branch of the Department of Transport, which is based at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, Hampshire, were at the scene of the crash in Manchester yesterday looking for clues as to the cause of the disaster.

Among other lines of inquiry they will be examining the cockpit voice recorder. The investigation branch is already looking at the flight recorder which was recovered from the seabed after an Air India jumbo jet plunged into the Atlantic near the Irish Republic in June with the loss of 329 lives.

Rescue services at the scene yesterday night where firemen used foam to smother the flames that raced through the body of the stricken aircraft (Photograph: Warren Harrison).



Employers consider new pay package for teachers

By Mike Durham of The Times Educational Supplement

A package for the reform of teachers' pay that could give every classroom teacher an average pay rise of £330 next year on top of an annual pay increase is under consideration by the local authority employers.

Proposals to be put to the management panel of the Burnham negotiating committee next Friday include simplifying the number of teachers pay scales from five to three and separating payment for lunchtime supervision of pupils.

The package has been put together in response to the offer of £1.25 billion over four years by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Sir Keith has offered the extra money to teachers on condition that an agreement can be reached on a new salary structure and conditions of service by October 11, in time for it to be included in next year's rate support grant.

Union leaders have already condemned the new offer as too small. Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers, accused the local authorities of trying to "square the circle" by fitting in with Sir Keith's budget.

The package recommends dividing the initial sum of £200 million which Sir Keith has promised for next year if negotiations are successful.

It suggests:

- Using £71 million to add new increments to the existing salary scale before the beginning of the new financial year, a form of "front loading" salaries;

- Merging the lower two scales which are almost indistinguishable from each other and which cover most classroom teachers;

- Increasing the proportion of teachers in scale 3, to allow promotion opportunities for teachers at present "stuck" at the top of scales 1 and 2.

- Merging the top two scales, scale 4 and the senior teacher grade, to create a new upper grade of principal teacher;

- Maintaining the differentials of head teachers and their deputies.

The latter four points would cost £66 million and would be effective from September, 1986. A further £40 million would be set aside to pay for lunchtime supervision and £23 million for "on costs" including national insurance and superannuation.

The final package would amount to at least 3.2 per cent of the present teachers' pay bill of £4.3 billion. In return, the teachers would have to agree to pay restructuring and a 14-point statement of their duties and responsibilities.

At the same time, employers' representatives are proposing a national scheme for lunchtime supervision that would offer teachers between £4 and £5 an hour.

Agent jailed over theft from RR

Hugh Ferdinand, who supplied bogus invoices which helped to cover up huge thefts from the Rolls-Royce marine division plant at Ansty in Warwickshire, was jailed yesterday for nine months at Warwick Crown Court.

The court had been told parts worth about £400,000, stolen from the plant were received by three companies, which were then provided with false invoices for the property by Ferdinand, a commercial agent.

Ferdinand, aged 47, of Hollington, near Newbury, Berkshire, was found guilty of seven charges of false accounting and one of forgery between 1978 and 1984, and not guilty of one false accounting charge. He had denied them all.

Sentencing him to 18 months in prison with half of it suspended Judge Michael Harrison-Hall said he had taken into account the fact that Ferdinand had been in custody for more than three months in Switzerland pending his extradition.

IRA threat to city criminals

From Tim Jones, Belfast

The Belfast brigade of the Provisional IRA has warned more than a dozen people living in nationalist areas of the city, whom it accuses of crimes, that from midnight tonight "active service units" have been instructed to take "action" against them.

"Action" can range from severe beatings to knee-capping, to death. The IRA said: "These people are as much our enemy as are the Brits and Royal Ulster Constabulary, and they should be treated accordingly".

The IRA, which names the men involved, said they had been involved in "criminal actions, including armed robbery, muggings, hijackings, break-ins, and fencing stolen property".

The terrorists have also in addition, told a city centre bar

to close immediately. "Failure to comply with this order will mean that at our convenience we will close this bar ourselves. We therefore advise patrons not to frequent this bar as we cannot guarantee their safety".

The named men, the IRA states, should be completely ostracized. "No shop should serve them, no bar should sell them drink. No one should socialize with them".

The men have been given 48 hours to leave the area or face the consequences. "Anyone assisting them to remain after the deadline expires can expect to be viewed in the same light as these gangsters," the IRA said.

The threats came two days after the IRA murdered Mr Seamus McAvoy, a wealthy builder, for supplying materials to the security forces.

'Acid rain' tree survey challenged

Nearly half of Britain's trees have been given a clean bill of health by the Forestry Commission after a survey into acid rain and air pollution.

Detailed tests have been done on Scots pines, Norway spruces - which are used as Christmas trees - and Sitka pines, 45 per cent of the tree population.

The findings have been repudiated by Friends of the Earth, the conservation group, which claimed they were misleading.

It said that damage to conifers and deciduous trees was evident throughout the country. Professor Bengt Nilgärd, an expert on acid rain and air pollution, was invited to Britain by Friends of the Earth.

His studies showed that there was 50 per cent needle loss on Norway spruces in some parts of the country, comparable to that in the worst hit parts of Europe.

Professor Nilgärd, who is a lecturer at Lund University in Sweden, said in an open letter to the Department of the Environment and several British scientists that there was evidence of chronic damage to oak trees.

Dr Bill Binns, who led the Forestry Commission's survey, said that some research had been done on deciduous trees in the New Forest and tests had been made on spruces and pines in 1984. There was no evidence to suggest acid rain or air pollution.

"The damage done to trees by the droughts of 1976, 1983 and 1984 still shows. That may be the reason for the confusion. We have been doing detailed research and will be continuing to monitor the progress of trees. I can find nothing to back up the claims of Friends of the Earth", Dr Binns said.

BR criticized over buffet car thefts

A former buffet car chief steward was spared jail yesterday after British Rail failed to explain a lack in security that allowed him to steal the daily takings for seven weeks. "I had expressed a desire that a senior executive from British Rail Travellers' Fare be here today, consider it a matter of regret, indeed discourtesy, that no one is here to explain the facts," Mr John Quentin Campbell, the Marylebone magistrate, said yesterday.

He sentenced Anthony Lewis to four months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, saying: "I am suspending the sentence because although you acted in a totally wrong and dishonest manner, temptation was put in your way by the negligence of your employers."

Lewis, aged 32, of Hunters-grove, Hayes, Middlesex, had admitted stealing £791 from the Traveller's Fare.

Senior Traveller's Fare managers at Paddington station had not wished to send a representative and said they would accept it if the court declined to make a restitution order.

Export of £2m Caravaggio in suspended

The licence to export a Caravaggio painting possibly worth £2 million has been suspended for six months after the acceptance by Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, of the recommendations of a review committee.

"Boy Bitten by a Lizard" is one of five works suspended from export for between three and six months to give British institutions time to make offers for them.

The committee considered the works, which included the painting "Vision of the Blessed Clare of Rimini" by the Master of the Blessed Clare, to be of national importance.

The other items were a goblet worth £62,500, a tankard worth £41,000 made by John Bridges and a German cross bow designed by Johann Gottfried Haensch.

Climber injured

Mr Stephen Brown, aged 22, a law student, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, was seriously ill in hospital in Bangor last night after falling about 220 ft from a footpath leading to Lliwedd Peak in Snowdonia on Wednesday.

Scottish schools face more disruption

By Ronald Faux

Scottish schools face a fresh round of disruption next month as members of the Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest teaching union north of the border, begins another round of strikes. The institute, with 41,000 members, representing most Scottish teachers, has been unsuccessfully pressing the Government for an independent pay review.

Mr John Pollock, General secretary, said in Edinburgh yesterday that a one-day national strike was to be called on September 11 followed by

selective, action. The teachers have been aiming their disruption at schools in the constituencies of Government ministers and say that the disruption will escalate in October, November and December unless Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, agrees to a pay review.

More than 1,300 members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers staged one-day strikes at schools throughout Strathclyde yesterday.

Seven accused of party murder

Twenty-eight party-goers who saw a fight in which a teenager was stabbed to death at an end-of-term party attended Wimbledon police station yesterday in an effort to identify the assailants. Det Chief Insp Bob Hancock told Wimbledon magistrates in south London yesterday.

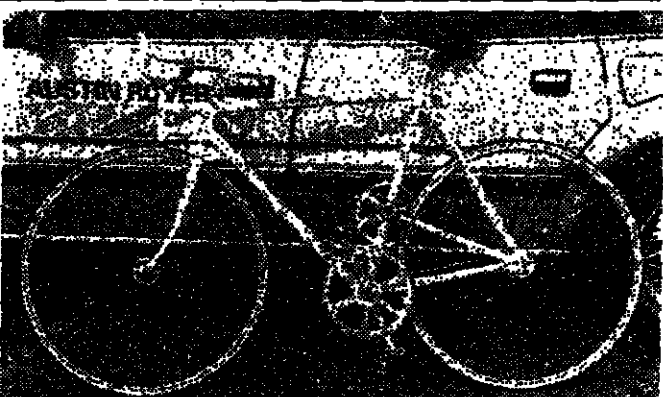
He said about 50 members of the public were asked to join the seven accused at the parade. Mr Richard Baker, aged 17, was stabbed at the party. The seven were remanded in police custody until today, charged with murder.

Cyclist in bid to beat 152mph

Dave Le Grys will attempt to become the fastest cyclist in history next Wednesday by exceeding 152.28 mph in the slipstream of a racing car along a closed section of the M42 near Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcestershire.

Le Grys, a professional cyclist from Harlow, will ride a specially-designed bike inches behind a windbreak mounted on the back of a Rover Vitesse driven by Tom Walkinshaw, the European Sports Car champion.

He will be towed until he reaches 90 mph and three miles



The cycle that Le Grys will use. Photograph: Cycling

later, under his own power, he will pass through a 200-metre timing strip. It will take him another three miles to stop.

The official record stands at 140.5 mph, set in 1973 by Dr

Alan Abbott, but last month John Howard, of the United States, recorded the speed which Le Grys is trying to beat, a performance which has yet to be ratified.

Shape is secret of spectacles

Spectacle wearers need worry no longer about the impact of glasses on their sex appeal. A Gallup survey of 1,000 people in Britain has found most people think glasses make no difference. With the right frames they can enhance sex appeal and some people prefer the opposite sex in spectacles.

The shape of glasses is crucial. Gallup found that a model who can look sophisticated and "very sexy" in one pair can be "stodious" and "plain" in another.

Nearly eight in 10 men surveyed said wearing spectacles made no difference to a woman's attractiveness, while one in 10 men found spectacles women more attractive.

More than eight in 10 women surveyed agreed that glasses made no difference, with one in 20 preferring men in spectacles.

Glasses are less popular with younger people. More than a quarter of men and 21 per cent

of women aged 16 to 24 said that glasses made the opposite sex less attractive.

Gallup found that women who want to look feminine and sophisticated should opt for metal framed "designer" style glasses, while those who want to look studious and intellectual should wear thick plastic "library" style frames.

Small-framed "granny" specs are out - more than three in 10 men voted these downright plain.

On men metal framed "designer" or aviator shaped glasses were rated most highly

by women. Silly "fun" glasses - such as those worn by Dame Edna Everage - were rated by men and women as trendy, but did little for sex appeal.

The survey, commissioned by a high street opticians, discovered regional differences in attitudes. The Midlands and the South-west are the best places for men in glasses. Men in Yorkshire and the North-east seem unusually keen on women with spectacles but more than one in five Welsh men think women with glasses are less attractive.

MEN'S ATTITUDES TO WOMEN WEARING GLASSES

Age groups (%)	Total	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
More attractive	7	4	7	8	6	16
Less attractive	12	27	5	6	9	7
No difference	77	67	84	85	79	73
Don't know	3	2	2	1	6	4

WOMEN'S ATTITUDE TO MEN WEARING GLASSES

Age groups (%)	Total	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
More attractive	5	7	5	3	3	6
Less attractive	10	21	13	7	5	7
No difference	83	69	75	90	91	82
Don't know	3	3	7	0	2	5

Man accused of abducting boy

A former social worker was committed yesterday by Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, on unconditional bail for trial at Inner London Crown Court accused of abducting a boy aged 12 who had been in his care.

Mark Fish, aged 27, of Camberwell, is charged with illegally detaining the boy, who was in the care of Southwark Borough Council, on or before May 21 this year, contrary to section 2 (1) (b) of the Child Abduction Act, 1984.

Prince on drug import charge

Maashour bin Saud Abdul Aziz, nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, faced a second drugs charge and was remanded until September 5 when he appeared before Marylebone magistrates in London yesterday. Sureties totalling £150,000, remained in force.

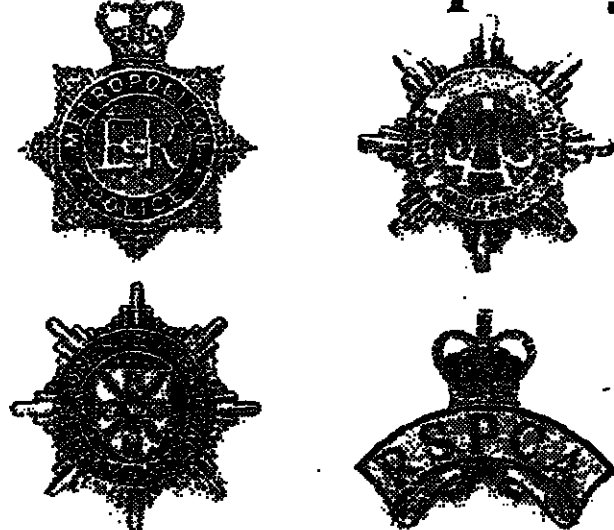
The second charge is that the Prince, aged 31, conspired to import cocaine. He has already been charged with conspiracy to supply the drug.

Seatbelt fine for scientist

A medical research scientist was fined £20 yesterday after failing to convince magistrates that wearing car seatbelts was dangerous.

Dr Kitty Little, aged 63, of Oxford, a member of Choice in Personal Safety, told Aldershot magistrates in Hampshire: "I have no intention of wearing a seatbelt and risking making myself a cripple." It was her second conviction for the offence.

One of these vital services doesn't cost Government a penny.



The Police, the Fire Brigade and the Ambulance Service are all financed entirely by central and local Government.

The exception is the RSPCA. It is in fact a Charity, funded solely by donations from the public.

Sadly, there are many who don't realise that the RSPCA receives no State Aid.

Perhaps the misconception stems from the uniform worn by our National force of over 200 full-time Inspectors. Or perhaps because we

are often seen working closely with the Police in securing animal cruelty convictions - 1,889 last year alone.

Or perhaps it's the fact that like the other emergency services, our help is always just a phone call away. Day and night.

But if you're thinking that we have a chip on our shoulder about the absence of Government support, don't worry.

We haven't. The RSPCA is happy to remain a Charity, so long as enough people remember.

Charity in Action

I would like to support the RSPCA. I enclose a donation of £. or please charge my Access/Bankcard Visa No. _____ Please send me information about the work of the RSPCA.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

SEND THIS COUPON WITH YOUR DONATION TO RSPCA, FREEPOST, Harnham, West Sussex RH12 1ZA

SDP calls for commission to investigate police decisions

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A standing commission should be appointed to investigate operational decisions by the police, the Social Democratic Party said yesterday in a policy document.

The commission should have the power to make recommendations for future operations, the document added. The proposal comes from lessons learned from the pit dispute.

The experience of the strike had also raised questions about the use of bail conditions by magistrates. "It became standard practice for magistrates' courts, in which miners were appearing on picketing offences, to impose a bail condition on a defendant that he was not to attend any gathering at or near any National Coal Board site other than his place of work."

The document recommended that the Bail Act should be amended to exclude from magistrates' consideration cases in which the only basis for belief that further offences may be committed by the defendant was that he or she was likely to attend a demonstration or other assembly.

"This avoidance of group justice" can be achieved by requiring the belief that the

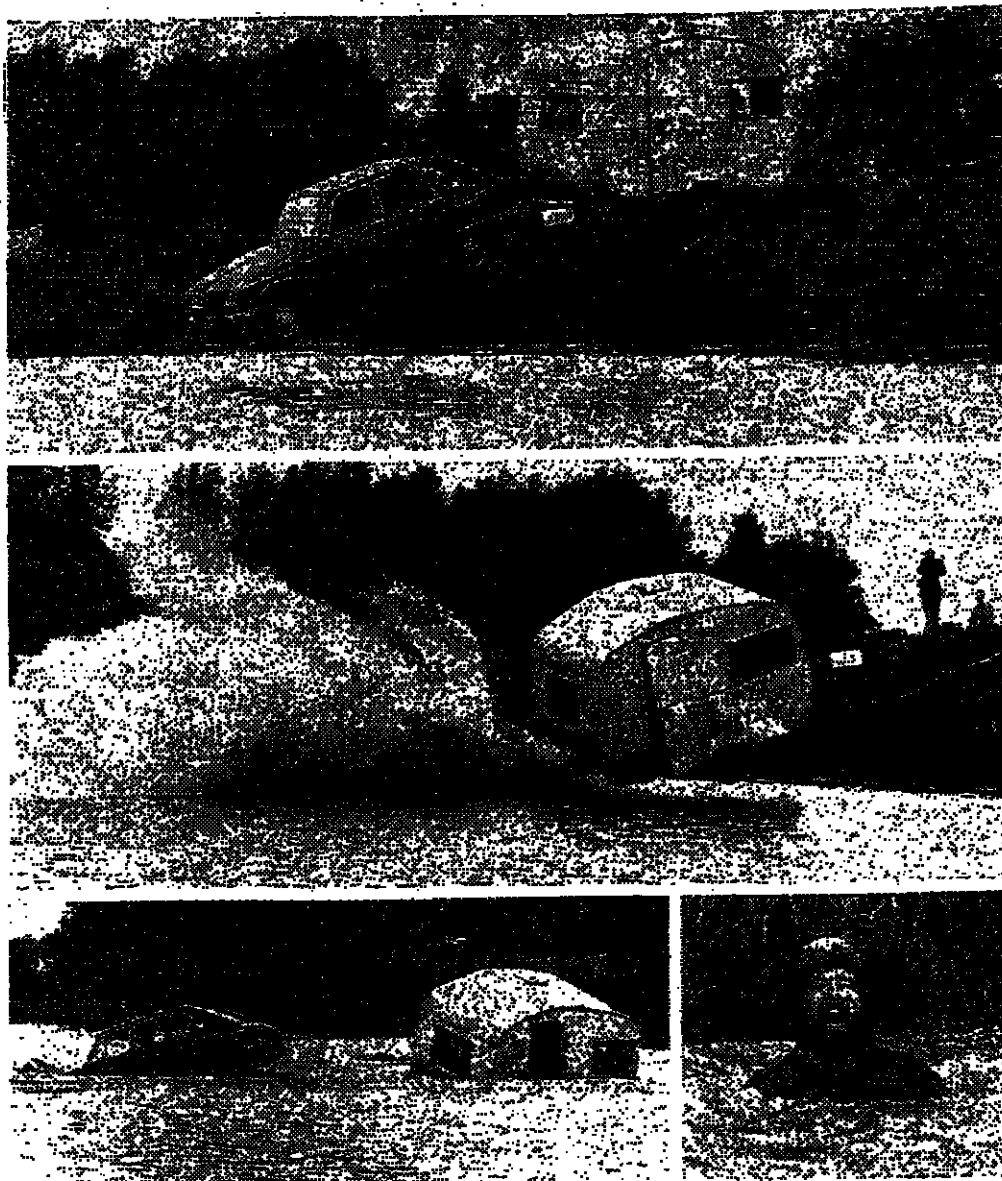
accused is likely to commit an offence while on bail to be based exclusively on the conduct, character, background and record of that individual defendant.

Referring to the interception of pickets many miles from their destinations, the document said that the power to stop vehicles for fear of an anticipated breach of the peace was used so widely as to amount to a denial of free movement.

The document cited a judgement of Mr Justice Skinner which defined the circumstances in which the power could be used. It "almost certainly meant that some previous police actions were not lawful".

Mr Justice Skinner said that there had to be reasonable grounds to believe that there was "a real risk of a breach of the peace in the sense that it is in close proximity to place and time". The imminence and immediacy of the threat to the peace determined what action was reasonable, according to the judgement.

The SDP document said that the law should be amended to encompass the judge's decision.



Mr Andy Aish, aged 28, of Taunton, Somerset, falling yesterday to jump a car across the river Avon at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Mr Aish, who got doubly damp (bottom right) when he slipped during the rescue, hopes to try again at the weekend (Photographs: Harry Kerr)

Clergy told not to take on burden of homeless

By a Staff Reporter

Roman Catholic priests in London are being encouraged not to let the homeless sleep in church halls and crypts.

They are being urged in a letter by the Diocese of Westminster not to let politicians "of the hook" by providing temporary and sub-standard accommodation for single people made homeless by the eight-week lodging rules.

The Government's planned board and lodging rules for single unemployed people would restrict them to eight weeks' social security payment in one place, with a maximum allowance of £6.90 a night.

The diocese said that by allowing the homeless to sleep in crypts and church halls they would merely be prolonging the situation. The burden was clearly on the Government to get to grips with homelessness.

The letter to 150 priests was prompted by an appeal from Camden council for churches to provide temporary accommodation.

The council, which said £6.90 a night was not enough to stay in the cheapest hotel in the borough, has called upon local clergy to mobilize themselves for a "massive influx" of unemployed people flocking into London looking for jobs, after the implementation of the eight-week lodging rule.

Tamil negotiations with Sri Lankan team break down

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The second round of talks between the Sri Lankan Government delegation and six Tamil separatist groups has collapsed. The Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J. N. Dixit, told a press conference in Colombo yesterday that the talks had been formally adjourned.

He said the Tamil delegates had returned to Madras, in Southern India, while the Sri Lankan delegation had gone to Delhi and were due to meet the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He said India regretted very much that the negotiation process at Thimphu, in Bhutan, had adjourned without reaching definite conclusions.

Mr Dixit said the talks had to be adjourned because of the resurgence of violence in Sri Lanka and because of some gaps between the expectations of the Tamil delegation and what Sri Lanka had offered as solution.

Mr Dixit said he had met President Jayewardene on Wednesday and had communicated India's hopes that the ceasefire would be maintained and the talks could be resumed later.

He said India was not blaming either side for the resurgence of violence. The Sri Lankan Government accuses the separatist guerrillas of ceasefire violations while the Tamils say Tamil civilians have been massacred in the north and east and walked out of the talks last Saturday.

Meanwhile, security sources said that fuel worth 5 million rupees (£130,000) has been stolen by Tamil guerrillas from the northern city of Jaffna.

Miss Bhutto unsure of her next move

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Miss Benazir Bhutto, who was allowed to return home after 20 months abroad, with the body of her younger brother, for burial in their village 200 miles north of Karachi, is uncertain whether she can stay in Pakistan.

Miss Bhutto, acting chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, had remained for about four years under government detention before she was allowed early in 1984 to go abroad, ostensibly for treatment for her hair problem. It is apparent the authorities are not comfortable over her present stay particularly because Pakistan is under a cautiously planned transition from eight years of martial law to a civil elected government.

Miss Bhutto, whose brother, Shahnawaz, died mysteriously in France last month, was unable to spell out clearly her future plans.

During a brief talk with newsmen and a speech to thank people who turned up at Larkana for her brother's funeral on Wednesday, Miss Bhutto reportedly said: "I don't know whether I will remain free in the country or the (authorities) will even allow me to go back. I don't know what they are going to do with me."

But an English newspaper in Islamabad quoted Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, one of Miss Bhutto's closest associates as saying the late Prime Minister's daughter had come to Pakistan to stay on. Miss



Miss Benazir Bhutto: uncertain future

Bhutto, addressing the crowd after the funeral, reportedly said she would carry on the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's mission to remove poverty.

Provinces should get full autonomy within the federation of Pakistan, she said, referring to an issue which has become highly debatable under eight years of military rule.

EEC hopes for more Asean trade

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

An explosion of trade between the EEC and the six members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) is envisaged after joint ministerial talks later this year.

Herr Franz Froschmaier, Director-General of Information for the EEC Commission, told a press conference here yesterday that Europe was not protectionist and would help developing nations in the region to gain better access to its markets.

He also held out the prospect of greater investment from Europe, an issue that has arisen repeatedly in his tour of Asean capitals sounding out prospects for the October 17-18 "summit" in Bangkok in which EEC economic ministers will meet their counterparts in South-East Asia.

"Where we might have results is increased trade exchange," Herr Froschmaier said. "It means, for example, better opportunities for exports towards the Community for Asean products". The Asian nations would be helped to test the appeal of the things they make through market research.

"We might have some ideas how to facilitate trade and exports towards Asean," he added. The conference would examine inward European investment, and what form it might take. Some countries in the region require joint ventures to be undertaken with local capital.

He rejected charges of protectionism, arguing that the EEC practised what it preached on free trade, with some temporary exceptions.

Sikhs show backing for Punjab deal

From Kuldeep Nayar, Delhi

The appointment of Mr Surjit Singh Barnala as interim leader of the Sikh Akali Dal indicates that a majority in the party has re-endorsed the recent deal to end unrest in Punjab.

Mr Barnala is to be acting party chief until elections to choose a successor to Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, who was assassinated on Tuesday.

Mr Barnala gave full, open support to the Punjab accord. Two other Akali leaders, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, former Punjab Chief Minister, and Mr Gurchaman Singh Tohra, head of the Shromani Gurdwara Prabandhak committee, which manages Sikh temples and funds, have been overlooked, even though they have a larger popular base than Mr Barnala.

Both had given only partial support to the accord and, with the Baba Joginder Singh faction, which supports extremists, had demanded certain adjustments. After Longowal's cremation on Wednesday, 14 of the 33 district Jathedars (chiefs) of the party met unanimously voted for Mr Barnala, who was the central government agriculture minister in the 1977-79 Janata administration. He is 60.

Normally, a non-descript Vice-President would have stood in for some time, but the party acted otherwise because of the impending state election in Punjab and uncertainties that surround the accord, which the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and Longowal signed four weeks ago to settle the three-year dispute between Delhi and the Sikhs.

Leading article, page 11

Koreans separated by war to meet after 30 years

Panmunjom, Korea (Reuter) - North and South Korea agreed yesterday to allow 100 members of families separated since the 1950-53 war to meet in Pyongyang and Seoul next month.

They will be the first of about 10 million separated family members to meet their relatives. Delegates at Red Cross talks at the border village of Panmunjom agreed that 50 family members from each side should make the visits between September 20 and 23, sources said.

They also agreed that a 50-

member art troupe, 30 reporters and 20 assistants from each side would accompany the visits.

Seoul officials have said the family visits will serve as a turning point "to put an end to the national tragedy" of a divided Korea.

The agreement was reached four days before a full session of Red Cross delegates is due to open in Pyongyang. The talks are part of a growing dialogue between Seoul and Pyongyang which also includes trade discussions and a meeting of parliamentarians.

'NIFTY AND THRIFTY'



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METICULOUS ENGINEERING DOESN'T COST YOU IT SAVES YOU

Mercedes-Benz (United Kingdom) Ltd.

Employers split over pay deal for black South African miners

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

A strike at 29 South African gold and coal mines, scheduled to start at midnight on Sunday, was postponed for a week when the black National Union of Mineworkers agreed yesterday to consider revised pay offers.

The decision came after a marathon meeting in Johannesburg between union leaders and the Chamber of Mines, the employers' body.

The three-year-old union, which claims a membership of 250,000 out of a total black labour force of 550,000, has rejected the chamber's offer of pay increases ranging from between 14 to 19 per cent and is demanding a 22 per cent rise across the board, and other benefits.

The chamber's solid front was shattered during the bargaining session when Anglo American, which would be the worst hit by a strike, offered an additional 2.8 per cent across-the-board increase to bring its pay offer up to the 22 per cent the NUM is demanding. It also offered a 10 per cent increase in holiday allowance.

The Afrikaner-dominated General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor), South Africa's second-largest mining house, refused to make any improved offer.

Security Council censures Pretoria

New York — The United Nations Security Council on Wednesday night strongly condemned the continuation of killings and arbitrary mass detentions in South Africa and once again demanded that Pretoria lift its state of emergency (Zoriana Pysarsky writes).

The council called for the unconditional release of all political prisoners in South Africa and the Nelson Mandela in particular. It indirectly criticized the statement last week by President Botha, which fell short of expectations that it would contain an announcement of major reforms.

Gold Fields and Anglovaal offered a 15 per cent increase in holiday allowance, and Rand Mines offered an additional 4 rand (about £1) a month to coal miners and a 10 per cent increase in holiday allowance for gold miners.

The possibility of strikes at mines owned by Gencor, Anglovaal and Rand Mines cannot be ruled out, but there appears to be hope that Anglo American can avoid a stoppage.

Spain sets time limit on restoring Israel links

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel before the next general elections, Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Spanish Foreign Minister, has revealed in a radio programme here.

Spain virtually alone among Western governments in not recognizing Israel, has been under constant pressure by the Jews to do so and by the Arabs not to take such a step.

Spain's general elections are not thought likely to take place before the autumn of 1986 and the Foreign Minister denied that any decision was imminent.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, had previously indicated that recognition would be part of Spain's aligning itself in foreign policy matters with the EEC after joining the Community. But Señor Fernández Ordóñez's remarks were the first time that a Spanish official had publicly set a time limit for recognizing Israel.

The Foreign Ministry here denied a couple of days ago that the minister had come under pressure to postpone or abandon the diplomatic move from King Hassan II when he visited Morocco last week.

Non-recognition of Israel by Spain's successive democratic governments has been part of the Franco regime's legacy emphasizing good relations with the Arab nations.

Señor Fernández Ordóñez underlined that the present mounting violence in the Middle East, particularly in Beirut, justified continued delay.

● JERUSALEM: Israel's small but vigorous Citizens Rights Movement has prepared a file documenting alleged widespread irregularities and illegalities in the purchase of land from Arabs in the occupied West Bank (David Bernstein writes).



Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, with Mr Albert Atrakh's mother at her son's funeral.

Thaw survives Cairo killing

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The assassination of an Israeli diplomat in Cairo has had no apparent effect on the recent thaw in Egypt-Israel relations, said Dr. Waki Mohammed Shindi, the Egyptian Tourism Minister, currently in Israel trying to boost tourism between the countries.

Speaking in Tel Aviv on Wednesday at the funeral of Mr Albert Atrakh, the murdered diplomat, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, emphasised that "peaceful relations do not prevent

giving haven to a terrorist organization like the Palestine Liberation Organization."

There has never been less open appreciation here of Egypt's prompt and apparently effective investigations into the affair and the condolence messages from Egyptian leaders.

The visit of Dr Shindi, although planned before Tuesday's attack, has also been taken as a token of Egypt's determination to improve relations.

Other Israeli spokesmen, including Mr David Levy, the Likud Deputy Prime Minister, have also questioned "how peace between Israel and Egypt can be reconciled with Egypt

giving haven to a terrorist organization like the Palestine Liberation Organization."

The politically conservative Bishop of Cuenca, Mgr Jose Guerra Campos, said: "We are confronted with the legalization of a crime."

The Bishop of Jaen congratulated doctors in his diocese, in a letter published earlier this week by the Granada daily *ideal*, for refusing to perform the abortion.

Church ban on woman and doctors for abortion

From Harry Debelius
Madrid

The first Andalusian woman to take advantage of Spain's new abortion law was excommunicated, according to reports here yesterday.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaen, Mgr Miguel Feinade, said in his southern see that the woman, aged 20, had to travel more than 200 miles to Jerez for the abortion because no doctors could be found at the state-run hospitals in Jaen province willing to carry it out.

"She has incurred excommunication along with the medical team which performed the operation," he added.

The Jaen woman was the first to be declared excommunicated publicly, since the abortion law took effect on August 2. She sought the abortion because of the likelihood of malformation of her child as a result of German measles contracted during pregnancy.

Especially since a papal visit here in 1982, the Spanish Catholic hierarchy has spoken out repeatedly and strongly against abortion.

When the law was passed, the Bishop of Alcantara, Mgr Pablo Barrachina, remarked: "The law that has been approved is a very grave violation of the moral order which endangers the entire state of law."

The Bishop of Sigüenza-Guadalajara, Mgr Jesus Pla, commented: "With the abortion law, it is open season for killing children."

The politically conservative Bishop of Cuenca, Mgr Jose Guerra Campos, said: "We are confronted with the legalization of a crime."

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Police round up Soweto pupils

From Our Correspondent, Johannesburg

Police carried out a mass round-up of young children in the streets of Soweto yesterday, and parents claimed some were beaten before being herded into a police-station compound.

Under state of emergency powers, the police have authority to take action against pupils staging school boycotts. Parents who went to Moroka police station to fetch their children were told they would not be freed until senior officials arrived.

The mother of a 10-year-old girl said: "She was crying and looked as though she had been jabbed (whipped) before she was taken away."

A school committee member said: "Soweto looks like a concentration camp these days. We received information that pupils from our school were taken away in Casspirs (police armoured vehicles) after police accused them of loitering during school hours. At the police station we found scores of pupils from other schools had been taken there as well."

At least two more people have been killed

director, had been meeting conservative Congressmen in the hope of drumming up support for a presidential veto. Most leading Republican lawmakers have urged Mr Reagan to sign the sanctions Bill that will be due for approval after the Senate reconvenes on September 9.

● LONDON: The EEC Community is considering ways of strengthening its eight-year-old code of conduct, which lays down voluntary guidelines for companies operating in South Africa, as a means of applying pressure on Pretoria to accelerate change (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Community officials hope that an agreement on the need to strengthen the code could head off an expected clash between Britain and France during a meeting of European foreign ministers in Brussels next month to consider possible economic sanctions against South Africa.

Britain is resolutely opposed to sanctions, but would be prepared to agree to a strengthening of the code of conduct.

Greenpeace bombing scandal grows

Dream island used for nuclear tests

Mururoa Atoll (AFP) — Seen from an aircraft, this tiny South Pacific atoll looks like the sort of dream island lured by travel agencies, with waving coconut palms, white beaches and a blue-tinged lagoon.

In reality, it is France's biggest test site where dozens of nuclear devices have been triggered since 1966 despite repeated opposition by the South Pacific Forum — a consultative body of regional states which is promoting a non-nuclear zone in the South Pacific — and the anti-nuclear Greenpeace movement.

The atoll was thrust into the news again after the sinking of the Greenpeace vessel, Rainbow Warrior, which planned to lead a protest fleet here.

The atoll, part of France's South Pacific territories, lies 11,500 miles from Paris and far from any island of significance, with the island of Tahiti two hours' flight away.

Slightly more than 3,000 people — half of them military personnel and half civilians — now populate this previously uninhabited band of coral which, at its largest point, is only a few hundred yards wide.

Most of the population is male, with only about 20 women working for the French Atomic Energy Commission. Civilians can leave the island every two weeks, but military leave is granted only every six weeks, with most soldiers heading for Tahiti.

The isolated life mainly revolves around the huge Pacific Experimentation Centre (PEC), which stretches on for dozens of miles and where laboratories with ultra-sophisticated equipment measure rays and seismic waves emitted by the blasts down to a fraction of a second.

Equipment on barges is kept going 24 hours a day to bore holes in the hard rock for future tests, while trucks and road equipment circulate endlessly, building new roads, walls and depots.

The base, where everyone lives, is at the centre of the atoll, at its only port. It consists of pre-fabricated barracks sheltered by palms and tamari matting, a church, a hospital, two movie cinemas, a television station and stores — none of which sell alcohol. There is also a radio station and sports facilities.

Because of its distance from other inhabited islands, certain necessities — such as a tonne of bread a day — are provided for right on the atoll, while household water is provided by a desalination plant.

Although scientists have said the desalinated water is drinkable, only bottled mineral water imported from Tahiti is usually drunk here at the rate of 6,000 litres a day, or half of every shipment from Tahiti.

Two scientific missions in 1982 by specialists from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea — all countries that have spoken out against the French nuclear tests — have confirmed the conclusions of PEC that radioactive contamination on the atoll is virtually nil.

One of the missions issued a statement to the effect that the "level of ambient radioactivity in the area of the base installations was, in general, inferior to that in the rest of the world, and that fallout from atmospheric tests were discernible only at levels much lower than those which would affect health."

Greenpeace, however, has said it wants to check the health of residents and test nearby ocean samples.

According to the PEC, the main threat resulting from the testing comes from the sea.

Since 1975, all tests have been underground, causing the collapse of land, which, in turn, can cause small tidal waves.

To counter this, the PEC has built a series of 6-foot-high concrete walls along the atoll and installed a monitoring system, warning alarms, and 20-foot-high safety platforms.



Captain Dominique Prieur: Identity discovered.

Woman held by NZ is army officer

Auckland (AP) — One of two people being held on murder, arson and conspiracy charges on the sinking of the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior is a French Army officer, police said yesterday.

The ship, which was sunk on July 10 by a bomb, was to have led a flotilla of small boats to protest against nuclear bomb tests at Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

Before a brief court appearance by the two French nationals yesterday, Detective Superintendent Allan Galbraith said New Zealand detectives working in France had discovered one of them was Captain Dominique Prieur, the woman originally charged under the name Sophie Claire Turenge.

Superintendent Galbraith said police had not established the identity of the second suspect, a man who has been charged under the name Alain Jacques Turenge.

French newspapers have alleged they worked for a French security agency, the General Directorate for External Security (DGSE). As well as murder, arson and conspiracy, they face charges of carrying false Swiss passports.

Their court appearance was a formality under New Zealand law. They face a preliminary hearing on November 4 to determine whether they will stand trial.

● PARIS: The French Socialist Party executive in a statement called the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior a "criminal operation" of a "terrorist nature" demanded that measures be taken against any person involved (Susan MacDonald writes).

The French connection, page 8

Oct 6th Important changes to N.I. contributions.

From October 6th, 1985 a number of changes to National Insurance contributions come into effect. These are designed to help low-paid workers and their employers by reducing the contributions they pay. There is also help for the self-employed and those paying voluntary contributions.

The changes are not intended to affect the individual's benefit rights, even though lower contributions may be paid.

EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS (CLASS 1)

The major change is that a graduated scale of contributions will be introduced. This will mean, for example, an employee earning £80 per week will have £1.60 more in his or her pay packet and the employer will pay £2.76 less.

The upper earnings limit is to be abolished but only for employers.

	EMPLOYEE'S TOTAL WEEKLY EARNINGS	NOT-CONTRACTED-OUT (Payable at this rate on all earnings.)	CONTRACTED-OUT (The appropriate Not-Contracted-Out rate is payable on the first £35.50 of earnings.)
	£	%	%
EMPLOYEES	35.50 - 54.99	5	2.85
	55.00 - 89.99	7	4.85
	90.00 - 265.00	9	6.85
EMPLOYERS	35.50 - 54.99	5	0.9
	55.00 - 89.99	7	2.9
	90.00 - 129.99	9	4.9
	130.00 or more	10.45	6.35

Employers will pay the Not-Contracted-Out rate on earnings above £265 per week for employees who are Contracted-Out.

New contribution tables are being sent to employers together with leaflet NI.208 showing the new contribution rates, and a supplement to leaflet NI.15 "Employers' Guide to National Insurance Contributions."

If you haven't received them by September 17th contact

Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

your social security office for Not-Contracted-Out tables (CF 391); or Contracted-Out Employments Group, DHSS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX for Contracted-Out tables (CF 392).

Do not use the present green tables for earnings after October 5th. The new tables, for use from October 6th, will be blue.

Company Directors will have special arrangements for the 1985/86 tax year. The October 1985 supplement to leaflet NI.35 will be sent to employers. If you haven't received this by September 17th contact your local social security office.

More than one job. If you are an employee with more than one job, see leaflet NP.28 and October 1985 supplement. If you are self-employed as well as being an employee, see leaflet NP.18, October 1985.

SELF-EMPLOYED (CLASSES 2 AND 4)

Flat-rate Class 2 contributions are going down from £4.75 to £3.50 a week. If you pay £4.75 a week on or after October 6th by mistake, claim a refund at the end of the tax year when you exchange your card. If you pay by direct debit, lower amounts will be collected from November as contributions are collected monthly in arrears.

If your earnings are low, you may not have to pay Class 2 contributions — particularly if you have recently started up your own business. If you think this may apply to you, ask your local DHSS office as soon as possible for leaflet NI.27A "People with Small Earnings from Self-Employment."

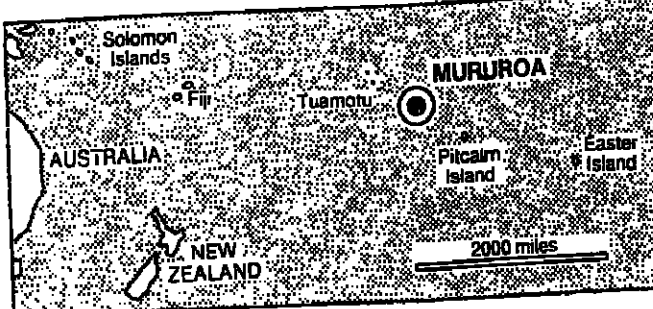
If you pay Class 4 contributions, income tax relief is now available on half of these contributions from the beginning of this tax year (April 6th). Contact the Inland Revenue for information.

Share fishermen's Class 2 contributions are going down from £7.55 to £6.30 a week.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORS (CLASS 3)

Class 3 contributions are going down from £4.65 to £3.40 a week.

If you want general information about National Insurance call the operator and ask for DHSS-Freefone.



Syria facing a new military commitment to Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Exasperated by the intransigence of its own Lebanese militia allies, Syria yesterday found itself facing a further military commitment to Lebanon after Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, asked for Syrian Army officers to act as ceasefire observers along the Beirut front lines.

Only an hour before Mr Karami emerged from the first Lebanese Cabinet meeting in four months with his proposal, militia leaders had met under Syrian Tutelage in the central Lebanese town of Chitaura and agreed on a truce that was supposed to take effect at 1 pm yesterday.

Like all Beirut ceasefires, it was honoured more in the breach than the observance. Long after it was supposed to have taken effect, Druze militiamen were still firing a cannon from atop a truck on the Beirut

military intelligence officers to police Beirut airport more than a month ago.

"We demand the deployment of Syrian observers in all of Beirut and not only on the demarcation line," the Prime Minister said. The purpose, he went on, would be "to draft a comprehensive security plan and to bring stability to the capital and then to the whole of Lebanon."

President Assad of Syria is likely to study these words carefully indeed. Mr Karami's phrase "not only on the demarcation line" will be viewed ominously in Damascus.

Syrian officers are not going to be welcome behind the Christian lines in Beirut and Mr Assad's advisers will immediately have seen the trap: if Syrian officers can come to Beirut as ceasefire observers, their troops can also return to Beirut as a peacekeeping force — something which the Syrian have no intention of permitting. It is the Lebanese who are going to have to sort out their present chaos.

Mr Karami referred to the latest car bombs and shelling in Beirut as "acts of the Devil... for which innocents are



Colonel Ghazi Kenan, head of Syrian military intelligence in the Bekaa valley (extreme right), chairing an emergency meeting of Lebanese militia and army officers in Chitaura under the gaze of a portrait of President Assad of Syria.

paying the price," a worthy sentiment that avoided the self-evident fact that Lebanese militias rather than the Devil were actually responsible for most of the 301 largely civilian deaths in the past 12 days.

Nevertheless, he committed himself to the decisions of the committee which met in Chitaura during the morning, a conference held in the presence of Colonel Ghazi Kenan, the head of Syrian military intelligence in the Bekaa Valley.

Among the commitments into which the militia leaders entered was an end to all fighting with heavy weapons and the "neutralization" of the

international airport in Beirut, by Muslim militias fell as far as Christians north of Beirut as the mountain can scarcely cross the front lines between the Phoenician port of Byblos. Twenty-one people were killed during the night and morning shelling.

In any case, Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal Militia leader, said that the Chitaura decisions did not go far enough.

During the day, rockets fired from the Bekaa valley towards Beirut were intercepted by the Israeli Air Force.

Row over KGB tracking powder

Experts fail to allay anxiety among US Embassy staff

From Serge Schmemmann (NYT), Moscow

American residents here were informed of assertions about the use of a tracking agent by the KGB in an extraordinary series of briefings on Wednesday.

In three separate one-hour sessions, about 500 diplomats, technicians, journalists, businessmen, teachers and other residents gathered in the ballroom of Spase House, the ambassador's residence, for information that few found assuring and none found sufficient.

The thrust of the information was that the KGB had intensified its use of the chemical as an aid in conducting surveillance of foreigners.

The briefings were held by the chargé d'affaires, Mr Richard Combs, who said available information gave no cause for alarm.

But the information presented by Mr Combs and by Dr Charles Brodine, a State Department medical officer, was too scanty to allay concern.

A young mother asked whether her child could be tested for exposure to the substance. A journalist asked

what specific places of things should be avoided. A woman who had recently arrived in Russia wondered whether the chemical could be included in preparations used by Soviet exterminators against cockroaches.

Mr Combs and Dr Brodine said the substance was being used in minute quantities and its use was therefore probably not a cause for alarm.

Dr Brodine said little was known about the properties of the compound and extensive tests were required to determine its actual effects. Scientists are on their way to the Soviet Union to begin testing, he said.

He advised the American residents to wash with soap and water and then with an alcohol-based compound.

Mr Combs said no diplomats were known to have suffered from the chemical.

"Our hope is now to get some sense of how concerned we should be,"

Though the possible medical danger was the first concern for the Americans here, the revelation of the existence of

tracking agents appeared to offer yet another glimpse into the Soviet practices of surveillance in a system of institutionalized distrust in which foreigners are often considered potential spies.

"I was a bit scared to learn about that powder, but I was not surprised," a journalist's wife said. Most foreign residents here assume that their activities and conversations are being constantly monitored.

The evidence over the years has been substantial. In 1976, the US Embassy disclosed that the Russians were beaming microwaves at the embassy building, touching off concern of medical consequences. Test eventually found no adverse effects, but in November 1983, the US again protested at the use of microwave radiation.

In other publicized instances, embassy employees in 1952 discovered a microphone in the back of a wooden American eagle presented by the Russians as a gift in 1945, and last March it was disclosed that electric typewriters in the embassy had been bugged from 1982 to 1984.

Television and radio stations interrupted their programmes with an official announcement and ministers hastily gathered in the presidential palace in Santiago where the atmosphere

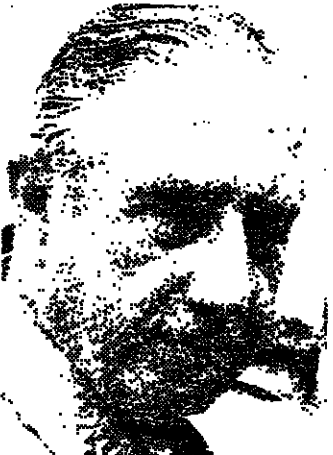
has been jumpy since rumours of a coup circulated, and were quickly scotched last Friday.

The rumours spread after the sudden lunchtime dismissal of Salvador Hospital medical personnel and patients.

After the rumours and last week's dismissal of General Cesar Mendoza, the chief of the paramilitary police, and one third of the senior officers, General Mendoza's successor, General Rodolfo Stange, has denied there is any crisis within the police force.

In addition to 14 policemen implicated in the kidnapping and killing of three Communist Party leaders, three other policemen have been arrested in connection with the death of a Concepcion University student and four more in connection with the death of a student in Valparaiso.

Meanwhile relations between the Government and the Catholic Church continue to be tense. The Bishop of Linares, Mr Carlos Camus, has publicly called for the resignation of President Pinochet.



President Pinochet: motorcade pile-up.

Pinochet murder bid denied

By Our Foreign Staff

Chile has denied reports of an attempt on the life of President Pinochet this week. Two members of his party were seriously hurt and 13 slightly injured in what the authorities described as a traffic pile-up during a presidential tour of southern Chile.

Twelve cars in the high-speed official motorcade reportedly collided after one swerved to avoid a pothole on the road near Chillan, 250 miles south of Santiago. The President's armoured-plated limousine was undamaged.

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Bonn in fight to tighten lax security

From Sheila Jones, Bonn

West German intelligence has long tried to shake off the country's image as an "open house" to East German espionage agents. It has not been easy. The latest spy scandal has only emphasized the serious gaps in the country's intelligence operations.

In the past three weeks, West German security officials have revealed four possible spy suspects, including the head of the counter-espionage department in the Government's Central Intelligence Agency who disappeared yesterday.

There have been 10 big spy scandals in West Germany since 1968, most of them involving women secretaries working in government departments, including the Chancellor's office.

The current spy scandal can only add to the anxieties of West Germany's allies over its ability to keep secrets from falling into the wrong hands. Nato governments, and Washington in particular, have made no secret of their reluctance to share sensitive military and technological information with Bonn, for fear of it going east.

But West Germany has a peculiar problem. More than half of its eastern border forms part of the Iron Curtain. Its largest city, Berlin, is surrounded by communist German territory. Not only is East Germany next door, but East German exiles are welcome into West Germany as rightful citizens. The postwar division of Germany created a security headache that Bonn has never been able to solve.

Last year more than 40,000 East Germans were known to have entered West Germany, a tiny figure in relation to the overall population of 61 million but a nightmare in terms of security.

Right-wing politicians complained last year that the particularly high number of East Germans entering West Germany was encouraging espionage. However, any tightening of East German immi-

gration provisions would create a social and political row that no West German government could weather, given West Germany's long-standing commitment to take in East Germans seeking to live in the West.

Once settled in West Germany, there is no reason why East Germans should not work in government departments as any other citizen.

They can also gain promotion to the top of the bureaucratic ladder, as Günther Guillaume did in the 1970s, when he worked as one of Chancellor Willy Brandt's closest aides in the Chancellery before he was unmasked and jailed as an East German agent.

The problem, however, has not been confined to East German spies or infiltrators. Many agents of the past few decades have been born in West Germany and have switched allegiance to the East after being wooed by high-ranking agents seeking contacts within the various government departments in Bonn.

In 1979, six Bonn secretaries working in key government departments and political agencies, were exposed as East German agents. At the time, the politicians involved expressed shock at the espionage activities of their secretaries.

The present Economics Minister, Herr Martin Bangemann, has responded in much the same way to the revelation three weeks ago that his chief secretary for 12 years, Frau Sonja Länburg, is almost certainly an East German agent. It is now thought likely that she was part of a big spy ring, possibly including Frau Ursula Richter, who vanished two weeks ago, and Herr Lorenz Detzing, named as a spy suspect on Wednesday.

Security officials have promised to tighten the vetting. But as the latest spy affair escalates, both government and intelligence officials still come under increasing pressure to do something about their leaky security system.

Herr Haider says this issue is irrelevant in discussing the new law. More talks are expected at the weekend before the law is presented to Parliament.

Japanese find cracks in Boeings

Tokyo (Reuters) - Cracks or scratches have been found in the rear sections of some Japanese-operated Boeing 747s being checked by government order after the crash of a Japan Air Lines 747 last week which killed 520 people.

An official of Japan Air Lines subsidiary, said a crack about one-inch long was found in a backup fitting to a power unit controlling the rear rudder of the one of its 747s.

A Transport Ministry official, commenting on press reports that scratches were found on the rear bulkheads of two Japan Air Lines 747s, said a number of minor defects had been found on an unspecified number of aircraft, but none affected their flight safety.

Police inquiries: The Japanese Police Agency and the Gumma prefectural police force are investigating last week's crash "with the premise" that there was "criminal responsibility," a National Police Agency spokesman said yesterday.

Police have already interviewed Japan Air Lines officials and maintenance crew, as well as most of the survivors. An airline spokesman said the police so far had not charged Japan Air Lines with anything specific. A Gumma police spokesman said the prefectural police's investigations were still in the early stages.

The investigation into the causes of the crash was carried one step further yesterday when 10 officials from the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau made on-site inspections of Japan Air Lines maintenance records and operations at Haneda airport.

The inspectors concentrated on maintenance procedures, handling of malfunctions and difficulties, co-ordination with other departments, and reporting of problems to the aviation agency.

US aviation and Boeing company officials returned to the crash site yesterday to continue their examinations. Their efforts apparently focussed again on the rear bulkhead of the aircraft.

About 1,500 troops were still at the crash site sorting through the debris searching for about 30 bodies still unrecovered and miscellaneous objects related to the incident. Recovery and identification of the bodies has become extremely difficult due to the destruction caused by the impact and subsequent burning.

Cops bust image of Rambogram

From Michael Binyon Washington

The "Rambogram" — a \$64 (£45) message brought to your door by a look-alike Sylvester Stallone sporting combat fatigues, a cartridge belt, fake automatic gun and glistening biceps — appears to be heading for uncharacteristic disaster.

When a hapless messenger delivering the macho message lost his way in Buffalo, he sensibly dropped by the Erie County courthouse for directions. In the ensuing panic, scores of city police and sheriff's deputies scrambled through the building with revolvers drawn, and one shot himself in the foot before "Rambogram" was completed, was overpowered by an army of law enforcers.

"I'm walking out, and I see all these cops and what looked like 60 cop cars in front of the courthouse, and about 300 people outside watching," Mr Mark Stancapiano, the 28-year-old Italian-American impersonator of the screen avenger, said. "I got the feeling it could be me they're looking for. And I'm parked right in front of the damn place."

"So I thought, well maybe I can get to my car, maybe I can't. I was gonna stash my gun in the bushes. But I decided simply to kinda walk to the car, with my gun all covered up in my shirt."

Mr Stancapiano, a professional ice-hockey player who does 200 press-ups a day to keep in shape, was charged with disorderly conduct and released on his own recognizance.

Not far away was another small shop owned by an Asian who had come to Uganda for the first time this year from Dubai. The sealed door to the shop had no name on it but it had seven heavy padlocks and three bolts.

He had stayed on after the coup only because he had valuable stock on his way from Mombasa. His shop had not been looted, but his home and warehouse had.

Russia to restore capitalist buildings

Moscow (Reuters) - Leningrad's City Council has decided to restore three old buildings as monuments to capitalism before the 1917 Revolution the Soviet trade union daily *Trud* said.

A typical 19th-century rented house in the city, then called St Petersburg, would show how civil servants and other officials lived. "The long, gloomy house with its basement accommodation and dark, pit-like courtyards will be a reminder of living conditions in the capitalist era," it said.

A replica of a literary salon will be built in the grounds of an old estate to portray the life of St Petersburg nobles while a tavern will allow present-day citizens to delve into the past and try dishes typical of the turn of the century.

Unesco denies big salary rise

Paris - Unesco headquarters here said that the salary of its Director General, Mr Amadou Mahtar M'bow, had changed only minimally this year. He earns just over \$100,000 a year.

Reports of a salary increase of 28 per cent were misleading when Mr M'bow's monthly take-home pay had been increased by only about \$10 (£15), it said. Although his base salary was increased by nearly 28 per cent, his cost-of-living allowance was decreased by very nearly the same amount.

Hawke upsets Portuguese

Canberra (Reuters) - The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, refused to back down on his controversial recognition of Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor the Portuguese colony annexed by Jakarta in 1976.

Lisbon has already recalled its ambassador to Australia for consultations after Mr Hawke's earlier statement on Indonesian television recognizing Indonesian sovereignty.

Eight police die in ambush

Manila - Suspected communist rebels killed 10 policemen, eight in a roadside ambush, in two separate incidents which military officials yesterday blamed on members of the New People's Army.

The other two police killed were apparent victims of a communist liquidation squad, the state-run news agency said.

Five hanged

Harare (AP) - Five more convicted murderers were hanged at dawn in Harare after their appeals for clemency were turned down by President Canaan Banana. The executions brought to 20 the number hanged since Zimbabwe became independent in 1980.

Leader seized

Panama City (Reuters) - Senator Mauro Zúñiga, a leader of Panama's opposition Popular Action Party, was abducted and beaten before being dumped semi-conscious in a town near the Costa Rican border. Police said he was seized from a restaurant.

Icons stolen

Moscow (Reuters) - A former monastery worker has been jailed for 11 years in the Soviet north-western city of Pskov for stealing icons from churches, the daily *Sovetskaya Kultura* said. The icons were smuggled out and sold in France, Britain and West Germany.

MEP to sue

Mr Richard Cottrell, the British MEP, is to take legal action before Greek and European courts against the Greek Minister of Public Order for "wrongful detention". He was detained at Athens airport for three hours on Monday.

Typhoon toll

Peking (Reuters) - The worst typhoon to hit east China in years caused widespread devastation when it cut across Shandong province, killing 16 people and injuring 150.

Cambodia talks

Jakarta - Talks on Cambodia between the Vietnamese and Indonesian Foreign Ministers ended after only one day. Mr Nguyen Co Thach of Vietnam said there had been encouraging progress.

Priests freed

Bujumbura (Reuters) - Thirteen of 167 Roman Catholic priests detained early this month for saying Mass on weekdays against a government order have been freed.

Correction

Salaries of Westerners working for Chinese organizations as teachers or trainers were incorrectly said on August 16 to average 200 renminbi (£49) a month. China's National Commission of Education stipulates that wages for foreign experts range from 500 to 1,500 renminbi a month, excluding accommodation and transport.

Shuttle will try to repair satellite

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Astronauts on the space shuttle *Discovery* will make a bold attempt next week to track down and repair a crippled communications satellite which has been orbiting lifelessly since April.

The *Discovery*, which blasts off tomorrow on an eight-day mission, will also deploy three communications satellites — one each for the American Satellite Company, the Australian Government and the Navy.

Experts said that the chances of the crew of five being able to repair the disabled US Navy

satellite, called *Leasat*, are only 50-50. The salvage attempt will be made by William Fisher, aged 39, a physician, and James Van Hoften, aged 41, who is 6ft 4in, weighs 210lbs, and is the biggest of the 103-member astronaut corps.

The *Discovery* will approach the satellite to within 35ft, and the two astronauts face what some experts believe is the toughest task ever undertaken by a spacecraft crew. Not only is the drum-shaped satellite loaded with more than 10,000 lb of flammable rocket fuel, but

it has been in the cold for so long that some of its fuel lines may have frozen.

The fuel in those lines is hydrazine and could eat through spacecraft.

The satellite was successfully deployed during a space shuttle flight on April 13 but its automated sequencer failed to initiate antenna deployment.

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The owner of the small shop sat in a little office at the back. He would not give his name (I shall call him Mr J) and did not want to be interviewed.

Mr J was one of the 300 Asians to remain after President Idi Amin expelled the 50,000 British and Ugandan Asians in 1972. They had provided the trading and technical middle class and, although some undoubtedly

exploited the country and its people, the economic collapse of Uganda began with their expulsion.

"I was born here, educated here, it is my motherland. I am a Ugandan citizen, all my property is here," said Mr J. "But now I think I made a big mistake by not going to Canada in 1972 when I had the chance. I could be safe and settled there. Now our lives are in danger again."

Mr J lost a lot of property in 1972 when President Amin gave Asian property to whoever he wanted to reward. In 1979, when the Amin regime was overthrown, his premises were looted and damaged.

Now he has lost again. He would not say how much and he

showed me with some scepticism a letter from the Bank of Uganda asking how much he had lost in the looting.

It is estimated that about 1,000 Asian families were here at the time of the coup but most of them fled to Nairobi in the wake of the looting which followed it. There are no accurate figures, because the Asians tend not to put their faith in the government and many did not register with their High Commissions.

Apart from the Majidvuni and Mehta families, who own huge sugar and tea estates near Jinja, only a handful of Asians here now have been in Uganda before 1972. These few returnees had come back to reclaim their property at the invitation

of the Obote Government, but it is believed that almost none returned to live here.

The Majidvunis and Mehtas received assistance from the Government to try to restore their estates, and it was hoped they would return to production later this year.

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Uganda's Asians face yet more disaster

From Richard Dowden, Kampala

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FRIDAY PAGE



Track and field: the winner jumping to victory in the Llanthony show sack race; other competitions range from guessing the weight of a donkey to pony racing

The day the valley leaps to life

Barbara Toner braved the rain to find rodeo riders and racing spaniels at a Welsh farming community's big day out - the annual show

Llanthony Valley is an exquisite pocket of south-east Wales no more than half a mile wide and 10 miles long, once favoured by medieval monks, now by pony trekkers. Most of it is given over to the Forestry Commission and about 40 hill farmers, a cheerful lot who are reluctant to admit any dependence on the sheep subsidy.

"No one goes broke around here", beams Oliver Collins, who has lived in the valley for 68 years. He and most of his neighbours bought their farms at half price as sitting tenants when the Llanthony estate was dismantled in the Fifties and Sixties.

For 24 years they have held the Llanthony Valley and District Show and Sports on the second Saturday in August in the same fields on Neuadd Llwyd Farm, Cymyoy, lent unflinchingly by Mr W. Davies and his wife. Only minor details have changed, to be cryptically recorded in the minutes of committee meetings.

The show's rodeo included bullocks as well as ponies until 1974, when a competitor insulted the judge and defied the stewards by insisting on using his own rope rather than the one provided. There was a barbecue to choose a show queen until "very dreadful circumstances" put an end to it in 1978, and the after-show dance was dropped after the "disastrously troublesome" event of 1977.

"Fighting broke out, I think, yes", explains Avril Watkins, the current secretary, about the barbecue and dance.

Some committee members have worked for the show since the beginning: the Watkins (Avril's parents, uncle and aunt), the Collins, the Powells, the Smiths and the Greens. Apart from the occasional mishap it has always been a well run, good natured occasion.

On the Monday before this year's show, 25 of them met at Cymyoy Memorial Hall to finalise details. At 8.30pm the farmers' wives, as always, took their seats in the body of the hall, and the farmers filed into places at a bench along the wall.

Derek Lloyd, this year's chairman, is 25. He works on his father's farm at the top of the valley. Avril Watkins is 24. She works in securities at Lloyds Bank in Aberystwyth. They are an unflappable pair.

The most important item for discussion was the donkey. How would they weigh the animal whose weight they wanted show-goers to guess?

"We have decided", Derek told the hall, "to take the donkey to the scales rather than the scales to the donkey". Someone volunteered to take the animal to the scales at Triley Mills on show day.

Over in the produce tent entries were slow. "It's only fun so long as you think of it as fun..."

Derek Lloyd drew attention to the rubby wedding of the show's president, Avril Arnold, wife of the proprietor of The Manor Hotel, in her second year of office. Her husband held the job before she did.

"Do you think we should present them with something, or would it look like an afterthought?" Derek asked. In view of their long-standing generosity it was decided they should definitely be given something in glass.

Avril Watkins informed the meeting that the Arnolds would be entering the decorated float competition (open) with "something for their grandchildren". This caused a nervous ripple in the hall.

Last year, as Mrs Arnold stood at the entrance to the president's

marquee, an innovation of her husband's, someone on a passing float threw a bucket of water over her, drenching her silk dress. This led to her telling the committee in September that she would be unable to continue as president for the full term, a decision happily reversed by December.

This year, at 10.30 on the morning of the show, the Arnolds' float was to be seen just inside the show field with its proud sign waiting for a finishing touch. "The Manor Bar", it read. The heavens opened just as the show jumping began at 10.40.

The committee turned down a Liberal Party application for a stall, to keep politics out. But St Martin's church was there as usual, selling jam, cream, cakes and paintings at inflated prices. There was the Wildlife Trust, the Order of the Moose, the Black Mountains Guild of Spinners and Weavers and a lady selling lace.

In the sheep pens and produce tent, entries were slow. "I suppose it's the rain", said Mary Powell, eyeing the cakes. "Sometimes you're lucky. It's only a bit of fun, so long as you think of it as fun. But you'd be surprised at those who don't." By 11 o'clock, when entries were supposed to close, no one had arrived with anything for the Fair Isle jumpers or the butter.

Back at the secretary's tent where a shoal of damp bodies was sheltering, Derek Lloyd stuck his head out. "Bloody hell", he said. "There's a storm coming up over the valley."

Over in class 101 (riding ponies 12.2 hands and under, riders 12 years and under) a protest had been lodged about the height of the pony judged second. Its rider, or someone connected with it, said: "If you're going to challenge me, you have to challenge the winner". But the winner produced a certificate, confirming the pony's height for life.

Back in the produce tent, Brenda Bayliss from Whitecastle entered two blocks of butter, one from her mother, one from herself. "It's only over us competing against each other. Mum always wins." Lyn Collins, daughter-in-law of Oliver, sister-in-law of the horticulture secretary's wife, arrived to enter baking in 11 categories. The sun broke through.

Across at the sheep, Derek Farr from over the valley climbed in and out of pens, feeling underneath black-faced ewes. When all the rosettes had been awarded he was accosted in friendly fashion by a farmer who said: "I don't mean to criticize the judging

The best bit is the rodeo... and the exuberance of the rodeo ponies who are never defeated

like", and went on to query the third placing. "It's only because they're being compared with their neighbours", Derek Farr explained afterwards.

To Derek Lloyd's vast relief, the parties in class 101 settled their dispute among themselves, noisily, outside the secretary's tent. The objection was withdrawn so there was no need to measure either pony, which was just as well, since it would have involved the removal of shoes.

The Arnolds arrived towards two o'clock, with an enormous family. Their hotel's chef, his wife and extra staff to help entertain their friends to lunch. Mr Arnold, a large, pale-faced, jovial man, had been in shipping before going into hotels. Mrs Arnold

was in a striped blazer and torque high-heeled boots.

Mrs Arnold declared the show open, then Mr Arnold was called to the trailer on which the ceremony had been performed, to receive the cut glass rose bowl for their ruby wedding. "Well", said Mrs Arnold speechlessly.

There are high and low points to all shows and a high for one entrant will certainly be a low for another. A dog called Sheba failed in the dog races despite entering both the over 15in. and the under 15in., and the enticement of a lump of Chum held high by an over-excited owner. Sally the spaniel, who won last year, won again this year.

Lyn Collins's 11 entries win her the baking cup which was consoling since she had driven into a wall on the way home from delivering her, Brenda Bayliss's butter was declared superior to her mother's.

But there is no doubt that for the wild boys from Tredegar who drink themselves silly every year, the best bit is the rodeo, and for the faithful who stay till the end, it is Herbie Collins's commentary and the exuberance of the rodeo ponies who are never defeated.

Herbie is a tractor dealer from Hereford with a wit as fast and sharp as a chain saw. "No, no boy", he says as a novice fails to mount his pony. "he's not supposed to ride you". "Sorry about that, lad", to another who was off in a trice, "new brake linings".

His admiration is saved only for beautiful 22-year-old Sue Eveleigh who won the rodeo this year and last year and thrashes all comers everywhere. "That's the way to ride, that's the way to go", yelled John Games, the auctioneer from Aberystwyth who was judging.

As the shadows lengthened in the valley, the committee had cause to congratulate itself. It had been a good day. And tickets for the donkey had sold like hot cakes.

The real worth of women at war

TALKBACK

From Valerie Dundas-Grant, Horwood Flats, Keele, Newcastle, Staffs.

"History is an account of what didn't happen by someone who wasn't there". I have not had time to check on John Costello's age and credentials, but can hardly imagine, from reading the extracts ("Women and War" August 12, 13, 14) from his book, that he was working as a young adult in the UK during the war. How I sympathize with Mrs Valerie Mather's immediate rejoinder published at the bottom of your Friday page.

I was myself a sixth-former, student and then for two and a half years a servicewoman during the Second World War. The general impression that Mr Costello creates is most misleading. I cannot possibly recommend his book to my own students and younger colleagues as a reflection of those times.

At the outset Mr Costello suggests that women of my generation were less "emancipated" as far as careers were concerned than they are today. I cannot see that in this respect there was all that much difference between the outlook of my own schoolmates and that of today's female teenagers. At my secondary school in the late 1930s we were all being educated towards worthwhile careers.

I genuinely query the statistic that only one in five single women was in paid employment at the eve of the Second World War.

Then to the main theme - "the collapse of morals and the increase in general promiscuity". Obviously wartime conditions brought about an increase in extra-marital sex; but this is by no means the same thing as saying that the majority of unmarried women war workers approved of it.

Mrs Mather rightly points out that Mr Costello fails to distinguish romantic love, often painful in the circumstances, and sexual affairs. I don't suppose Dame Vera Lynn is particularly pleased to see her youthful photograph printed above one of a VD poster. Of course there was an alarming increase in VD - though it would be interesting to compare the wartime annual number of reported cases with today's statistics now that most venereal diseases can apparently be treated much more quickly and effectively.

One might add that one of the government advertisements appearing in the press at the time, while assuring that treatment was "free and confidential", ended with the sentence "clean living is the only safeguard", does one see that precept publicized today? I don't know what the official definition

is of "epidemic" - all I can say is that during my wartime service I never knowingly met anyone who had contracted VD. Also when an eminent doctor, giving us a Red Cross lecture at Oxford, was asked whether she considered VD should be notifiable, she admitted she had never encountered any case of VD in her own practice.

Then to the question of illegitimate births. When servicewomen were quartered in large numbers in new areas, the local residents inevitably tended to cast aspersions on their sexual morality. To refute some of these allegations official statistics were produced to show that the rate of illegitimate births among members of the ATS was considerably lower than that among the corresponding age-group in the civilian population.

There seems to be something odd anyway about Mr Costello's statistics when he states that (a) "Of the 53 million infants delivered between 1939 and 1945 more than a third were illegitimate" (ie, more than 333 per 1,000) and yet that (b) the wartime peak of illegitimate births, reached in 1945, was 16.1 per 1,000.

Finally, in the third extract, why the loaded statement that "so many women opted for domestic drudgery in the aftermath of the Second World War"?

Why domestic drudgery - why this degradation of home-making? Why shouldn't young women be keen to hurry back to matrimonial homes and postponed motherhood? Didn't the long hours of factory work in many cases constitute "drudgery"?

I hope very much that when you arrange for the complete book to be reviewed in your newspaper you will give the task to someone who is over 60, female and who actively served her country during the Second World War.

More taste to a gourmet jelly?

From Mrs M. D. Anderson, Chaucer Road, Cambridge. On the Wednesday Page (August 14), Jenny Greene expatiates on the virtues of fresh ingredients and simple cooking. She then gives a menu in which the sweet course is based on packet jelly. This is not what one would expect from a gourmet hostess.

Her dish would be vastly better, and more in accord with her avowed principles, if based on fruit juice and gelatine.

TENDER FOR BUILDING CONTRACT LONDON

PRESTIGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, 117/118 BAYSWATER ROAD CORNER POSITION FACING HYDE PARK

Contractors are invited to apply for the tender documents for this new development with an estimated contract value between £650,000 and £750,000.

Applications should be forwarded in writing to The Robert Atkins Howard Gatling Partnership, 43 North Bar Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 0TG, together with a deposit of £100 made payable to The Robert Atkins Howard Gatling Partnership, returnable on receipt of a bona fide tender.

Glue ear: a sticking point for doctors

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Glue ear is the fashionable reason for middle-class children to be less than brilliant at school.

This is the cynical interpretation of one side of a heated debate in the *British Medical Journal*, which started earlier in the summer with an article by Dr Nick Black, a community physician from Oxford.

Dr Black suggests a number of reasons for the current "epidemics" of glue ear (accumulation of sticky liquid in the middle ear in children under 10) and the surgical draining of the fluid and the temporary insertion of grommets to ventilate the ear, afterwards. In most children glue ear sorts itself out and, at worst, leads to a few weeks' slight deafness. In a minority the difficulties may be more permanent.

Among the controversial reasons Dr Black puts forward for the doubling of the rate of surgery from 1975 to 1983 in some parts of the country, is not that there is a real increase in the incidence but, rather, that glue ear is diagnosed more frequently and treated more aggressively, making the increase cosmetic.

One reason could be that more advanced hearing tests have become widely available in the last decade; another that surgeons had to do something to fill the vacuum caused by the decline in the number of operations to remove tonsils and adenoids, so popular in the 1960s.

The most controversial suggestion is that glue ear may give parents a respectable medical explanation for their children's rotten school records, as dyslexia did in the past. "The high rates of surgery among higher social classes may result from middle-class parents seeking to attribute to 'medical' reasons their child's failure to meet the expectations for

development and education", Dr Black writes. In support of this he cites the results of a private screening clinic for educational underachievement which reported that 99 per cent of children screened suffered from glue ear.

Dr Black also argues that the long-term effectiveness of surgical treatment is not known and that, quite possibly, inserting grommets may do permanent damage. The medical profession could not take this lying down and since the original article was published the correspondence columns of the *BMJ* have been bursting with opposing views.

A number of correspondents agree that grommeting is carried out too often but say that it is a price worth paying: the procedure may prevent young people suffering from painful and debilitating chronic middle ear infections and it may be responsible for the current decline in adult ear operations.

Another doctor says the increase in the incidence of glue ear is real - not apparent - and can be blamed on the long-term use of antibiotics and decongestants which, far from clearing childhood ear infections, exacerbate the symptoms.

Bacteria beat the microwaves

Modern parents should not be tempted to use their microwave ovens to sterilise their baby feeding equipment. The warning follows tests by home economists at Surrey University.

Their research, just published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Health*, showed that popping damp bottles and teats into the microwave for five or ten minutes did not kill

contaminating bacteria. Submerging the equipment in a container of cold water and bringing it to the boil in the microwave was effective but was just as much bother as modern chemical sterilizing methods.

Putting your wildest dreams to sleep

Nightmares of being trapped in a snake pit or being chased by ravens, snarling dogs can be difficult to treat: the victims wake up screaming and terrified just at the point they are about to be destroyed. A method first described by Dr I. Marks in 1978 has been successful in helping patients overcome their horror. The technique is to rehearse the nightmare with the help of a doctor and then change the ending - making it at least neutral or, better still, happy or triumphant. A sample of cases described in the current issue of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* shows how the patient wins. One 17-year-old woman, for example, dreamt of snakes and animals crawling into her bed. About four times a month she woke up terrified and screaming just as they were about to attack her. The origin of the dream could be traced back 10 years when two girls had attempted to throw her into a rat-infested tip.

With professional guidance she learnt to conjure up the images of the dream. She was then taught to imagine triumphant ending when she cut off the snake's head as soon as she saw it.

The new format was tape-recorded and she went home to rehearse the plot. After a couple of weeks repeating the dream with the new ending her violent nights subsided.

How to have your baby at home

Obstetric care in the UK is now so geared that more than 98 per cent of babies are born in hospital. It is a fair bet, as some local studies have shown, that women would like to be offered the possibility of a home birth, even if they subsequently choose a hospital.

Any woman who would like to know more about organizing a home birth may like to read *Choosing a Home Birth*, a leaflet published by The Association for Improvement of the Maternity Services (AIMS).

As AIMS points out, district health authorities are obliged to provide a midwife to attend any woman who decides to have her baby at home. There are two important practical considerations, however. First, many women (and midwives) would like a doctor to be present. AIMS suggests asking your own doctor, although fewer and fewer take on maternity care these days. If your GP cannot help it is normal practice for another GP to take on your maternity care.

The difficulty is finding one: even a sympathetic GP will often only take on women considered "low risk" - second or third confinement, 20 to 32 years old, no previous obstetric problems and so on.

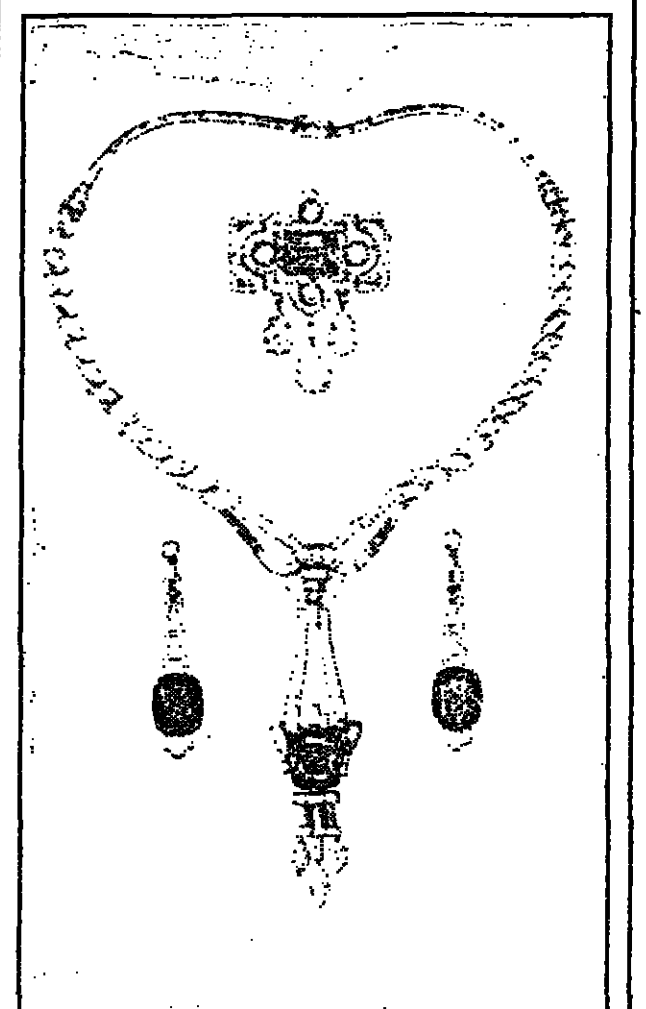
The other consideration is local provision for emergency maternity care. Although local health authorities are obliged to provide some cover, flying squad services have been greatly run down in many areas.

Choosing a Home Birth is available from AIMS at 163 Liverpool Road, London N1, price 50p (enclosing a SAE).

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser



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THE TIMES DIARY

Festival cringe

The Edinburgh Festival seems doomed this year. Last Sunday, the French opera company Les Arts Florissants found its set was too big and had to be shovelled on to the stage by brute force, delaying the performance by 30 minutes; further drama at the end of *Pelleas et Melisande* when the curtain refused to see her on a wobbling, frozen tableau; over at the Playhouse, Rudolph Nureyev refused to set foot in the squalor of his dressing room - and when he and Yehudi Menuhin appeared together at the Usher Hall, the irascible Russian was driven to issue instructions about the lighting from the stage. Wednesday's fireworks display was rained off (damp squib?) and the Festival's technical director, Peter Scott, suffered a heart attack. Then the top clown from the Moscow State Circus, Oleg Popov, walked angrily off of a meeting with local people that was swamped by press and TV cameras, and left without the £100 Scots terms that was to be presented to him. Now, to cap it all, Pamela Stephenson is refusing to invite critics to see her late-night one-woman show at the King's Theatre. Local organizers and thespians are irritated that Ms Stephenson is treating the Festival (of which her show is not officially part) as a dry run for a nationwide tour. Whatever next?

Robert Maxwell, I learn, has already decided on the book he will give to his 25,000 or so employees as a Christmas present. It is a new work on Oxford United, of which he is chairman, to be published by the Queen Anne Press, which he owns, with a foreword by himself.

Overbooked

A salutary tale for anyone who ever doubted the efficiency of their travel agent. ABTA, the trade association of British agents, is having its annual convention for 3,000 delegates in Sorrento in October. The other day, a group of travel writers happened to be in the Vesuvius Hotel, venue of the convention's huge farewell party. Very nice, said one of the journalists, how many people can the function room hold? Oh, about 1,500, replied the beaming manager. Consternation and rapid changes of plan took place at HQ in London. The party will now take place in the cavernous wastes of the Sorrento Palace.

Fare play

Oliver Tambo, president of South Africa's outlawed African National Congress, will be the fraternal delegate who gives a tub-thumping speech to the Labour conference this autumn. Or will he? Labour general secretary Larry Whitty has invited him. Tambo has accepted. There remains, however, the delicate question of who pays the air fares of Tambo and his aides from Lusaka. While the ANC in London refuses to comment, and while Labour party spokesmen say the question has yet to arise, a Walworth Road mole tells me that the party's international secretary, Jenny Little, is insisting it should not be Labour.

Journalists regularly invited to the BBC's monthly briefing were positively salivating at the prospect of today's meeting, what with *Real Lives*, M15 et al. Yesterday it was called off, a minion explaining: "There isn't enough news around."

Book end

The lobby who battle for the publication of more books should avoid Richard Hickmet, Tory MP for Scunthorpe and Gillingham. He is indignant at Scunthorpe council's decision to publish Stephen Bennatar's book, *Such Men Are Dangerous*, which is set in Scunthorpe. "I thought it was the council's duty to collect rubbish, not to produce it," said Hickmet. Has he read the book? "No." Does he intend to read it? "No." When told it was expected to break even, he said: "I don't care."

BARRY FANTONI



And a carrier bag - I've lent all mine to the Y & A

Enoch out

Mrs Thatcher does not have sole claim on Ted Heath's considerable spleen. She shares it, it seems, with Enoch Powell, the Tory defector who is thought by many to have lost Heath the first 1974 election. A researcher from the BBC programme *Choices* rang Powell the other day to invite him to join Heath on a panel that will be discussing politics and religion under the chairmanship of David Dimbleby this Sunday. Certainly, replied Powell, but should she not first check that Heath was prepared to appear with him? The researcher did. The invitation to Powell was hastily withdrawn.

PHS

Crisis of confidence in the air



1977: Tenerife (583 dead)



1979: Chicago (271 dead)



1985: Japan (520 dead)

As investigators comb through the wreckage of the Boeing 737 at Manchester airport putting together a full picture of yesterday's disaster in which 54 people died, one unhappy fact is already clear: more people have been killed in air accidents so far this year than in any comparable period in the industry's history. The combined death toll in the Air India, the Japan Airlines and now the Manchester tragedies exceeds 1,200 - the worst year since 1977, when 583 people lost their lives after two jumbo jets collided on the runway at Tenerife. Two years later the US suffered its worst disaster when 271 died in a DC-10 crash at Chicago.

Given the size of modern aircraft and the rate at which air travel is expanding - a staggering 854 million people flew last year - it would not be wholly surprising that accidents too should be on the increase. Spokenmen for the industry are at pains to point out that statistically flying is still a good deal less dangerous than crossing the road.

Even so, after the latest disasters, there are distinct signs that the public is growing wary. The first reaction, after the crashes of the Delta Airlines, Tri-Star at Dallas and the Japan Airlines 747 earlier

this month, was a deluge of demands to travel agents for seats at the rear of the plane. In both accidents the only survivors were seated at the back.

But as no accident resembles any other this, as experts pointed out yesterday, no guarantee of survival. In the Manchester disaster it was those at the front who escaped while those at the back died. "In the past few weeks," says Hans Krakauer, executive vice-president of the International Air Passengers Association, "we have had hundreds of telephone calls from people asking for advice about where they should sit. We have to tell them they might just as well toss a coin."

The IAPA, which has 105,000 members in 107 countries, is the nearest thing there is to a passengers' trade union. It is therefore better placed than most to assess the public mood. "I don't want to be alarmist," says Dr Krakauer, "but there is now a definite sense of unease. Even I, who fly hundreds of thousands of miles a year, have been forced to consider."

According to Dr Krakauer, the time has come for a fundamental reappraisal of the whole business of airline safety. "The trouble," he says, "is that the industry is

fragmented, with responsibilities divided between the civil authorities, the manufacturers and the airlines. In the past this has led in times of trouble to a good deal of buck-passing. We are asking for a systematic and scientific examination of all aircraft at regular and set intervals."

It wants a complete inspection of all commercial aircraft every 30,000 flying miles or 6,500 landings, whichever is less. He points out that at the time it crashed the JAL jumbo had completed 18,830 flights and made no fewer than 38,000 landings.

The other aspect that Dr Krakauer believes is in urgent need of improvement is the whole question of in-cabin safety. Studies have revealed that many passengers who survive the initial impact of the crash die because emergency exits are blocked by debris and baggage - including duty-free liquor, which all experts agree is a major fire hazard but which airlines are reluctant to ban for commercial reasons.

Earlier this year Britain's Civil Aviation Authority issued new regulations to limit severely the amount and type of carry-on luggage. The Americans too are becoming increasingly concerned at the problem.

The IAPA is reluctant to point the finger at any single manufacturer, and says that its relations with Boeing - who have lost three aircraft, two 747s and a 737, since June - are excellent. "They have given us every assistance and I am sure they will get to the bottom of the matter," says Dr Krakauer.

Even so it is plain that the international airline business, for whom safety is a matter of commercial life and death, faces a serious crisis of confidence - perhaps the worst in its history. What makes matters even more worrying is that none of the major disasters so far this year were, as far as is known, the result of pilot or human error.

It is still possible that the Air India plane was destroyed by sabotage, although investigators are increasingly sceptical. But there is no question that the cause of the JAL crash was mechanical failure. Likewise, yesterday's disaster at Manchester was, it appears, the fault of the machine, not the man. With the size of the modern jet and the numbers of people inevitably at risk, there would seem to be ample reason for concern.

Stephen Aris

Hew Strachan analyses the conflicting strands of strategic thinking

How should Nato fight?



men would know the locality and be equipped with the latest anti-tank technology. Warsaw Pact tanks would have no line to break; they would be unable to make contact with any Nato concentrations, and instead would be gradually worn away in a battle of attrition.

Afheldt's principal motivation is the achievement of non-nuclear defence. Other solutions, including those proposed by a former Bundeswehr officer, Major-General Jochen Löser, and by a British-based organization, Just Defence, have the same overall objective, albeit couched in tactically less extreme terms.

Defence in depth attracts a range of specifically military criticisms. Afheldt's soldiers would fight as individuals, dispersed and alone, with an indefinite commitment to combat. However, all historical evidence suggests that comradeship and group solidarity are the positive motivators of soldiers. Furthermore, each man's stock of courage is limited, and he should therefore be rotated in and out of the battle in order to ease out that stock.

There are, too, tactical difficulties. Defence in depth assumes an effectiveness in anti-tank weaponry which is unproven. The tank is more vulnerable than it was, but weather and terrain - quite apart from more active counter-measures - protect it. Nor can the defence afford to disperse its own anti-tank weapons and then lose its capacity to concentrate. A Warsaw Pact tank attack would not be delivered along the whole front but on a limited number of lines.

Finally, the need to retain the mobility to counter-attack goes beyond tactics. It reflects a deep professional military reluctance to see the defensive as stronger than the offensive. The combination of a strategic defensive, a tactical defensive, and a negative aim (denial) is very hard to accept. It forfeits the initiative to the enemy and commits the army to a long war.

The second group of possible

improvements to Nato's conventional defence meets many of the military criticisms of defence in depth. But since it rests on various deep counter-attack options, the more radical defence-in-depth advocates see it as politically destabilizing.

In 1982, the US army adopted a new operational doctrine, dubbed *Airland Battle*, a response to criticism that it had emphasized managerial and bureaucratic skills over leadership and strategic ability. In both its conduct of the Vietnam war and in its doctrine for a European war, it was accused of stressing firepower rather than manoeuvre, and of coding the initiative - the positive aim in war - to the attacker.

Furthermore, the creation of the Rapid Deployment Force in 1980 meant that the US army had to be ready to fight offensively anywhere in the world, not simply in Europe. Therefore *Airland Battle* emphasizes manoeuvre rather than firepower, fighting the enemy on the best ground rather than sticking rigidly to forward defence. The main method it proposes for giving depth to the defence is to take the battle forward, to combine the struggle on the ground with air interdiction against enemy forces about to be, but not yet directly, engaged in combat.

Airland Battle is US army, not Nato, doctrine. Independently Nato, too, has initiated a new look at conventional operations. In 1978, the US "Assault-breaker" programme proposed the development of non-nuclear missiles to check Soviet second-echelon forces. President Carter saw such new technologies as providing for Nato the eventual alternative to long-range theatre nuclear forces. The emerging technologies (inevitably now called ET) were worked into a fresh doctrine between late 1979 and October 1981, under the guidance of General Rogers.

Rogers is worried that Nato could counter the Warsaw Pact only at the theatre nuclear and strategic nuclear levels. The lack of an effective conventional capability might force Nato into early nuclear release and thus undermine "flexible response".

Rogers' plan, christened "Follow-on force attack", is to mount a centrally-directed deep strike of 1,200 to 10,000 missiles, carrying conventional warheads, against Soviet second-echelon formations. The plan, which was endorsed as Nato policy late last year, is, therefore, less a change of strategy than a "technological fix" to improve Nato's ability to implement its current strategy.

Five major questions are posed by the counter-attack options. First, the depth and extent of the counter-attack, is targeting to be restricted to airfields and troop concentrations? Does the range go as far as the Soviet Union itself? Secondly, what would be the Soviet response? The new conventional missiles, as they approach their targets, may look like theatre nuclear weapons: the Soviet Union will not unreasonably assume the worst. The Warsaw Pact may develop ET for itself, and thus gain a relative advantage, since Nato's lack of combat readiness in peacetime, and consequent reliance on preparatory mobilization, makes it far more vulnerable to deep attack.

Even more straightforwardly, the Soviet Union could increase the strength of its first echelon (according to one recent calculation) 20 per cent, and thus Nato would lose the more important battle - the ground battle in the German border area.

Thirdly, what are the relative costs? The deep-attack proposals emphasize their cheapness: Rogers originally said his plan depended on Nato member nations increasing their defence spending in real terms by 4 per cent a year, although recently he has increased this to 7 per cent. But no European member nation has met in full its existing commitment to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year - a commitment which in any case lapses in 1986.

Fourthly, what is the time-frame which the proponents of these remedies envisage? Some of the requisite technology is already available, or soon will be. Other systems are far from proven in practice. Furthermore, existing force structures cannot simply be overthrown and replaced in one stroke: the future pattern of armed forces is dictated as much by what they are as by what they might become.

Fifthly, and finally, how does improved conventional defence enhance deterrence? Both the defence-in-depth and the deep-attack lobbies agree that their objective is deterrence, but disagree on their interpretations of the mechanism that underpins it. Defence in depth specifically forges nuclear retaliation and stresses denial rather than escalation; deep attack, at its simplest, plans the opposite, to strengthen the process of escalation by reinforcing the first step.

Logically speaking, the time has come for a Nato strategic review. But 16 sovereign nations, each with armed forces possessed of independent traditions and with their equipment at different stages of the procurement cycle, cannot naturally and easily define a collective strategic doctrine. Defence in depth appears a European proposal, designed to assert European self-reliance; deep attack appears as an American idea, fostered by the US arms industry.

The tensions between the US and Europe will be worsened rather than relaxed by increased conventional capabilities. A lengthy conventional battle would wreak damage on central Europe while the US remained inviolate. On the whole, in the past Nato's way has been - with commendable political realism - to duck these issues.

Existing conventional defences have their defects, but they are not so weak as to invite Soviet attack. Flexible response will remain the formula under which the various doctrinal strands can be accommodated without their contradictions being made explicit.

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The author is a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

David Watt

Helping the blacks without bloodshed

What do we actually want to happen in South Africa? The reaction to President Botha's speech last week confirmed that a great many politicians and commentators do not feel it necessary to ask themselves this question. Yet morality and self-interest alike demand that we try to answer it clearly as the crisis deepens.

The glib reply is that we desire the peaceful evolution of South Africa into a prosperous multi-racial society. Possibly, if the speaker feels it necessary to be a little more honest about African realities, he may imply that the best we can expect is the kind of regime that is now in place in Kenya and is probably evolving in Zimbabwe. This would mean solid black majority rule, perhaps of a more or less authoritarian, one-party kind, but some tolerance of whites, at least for a time, if only for the sake of their contribution to economic development, and (more doubtfully) even if the Kenyan and Zimbabwean analogies are accepted as an equal toleration of other minorities, brown and black.

This is not, in fact, a wildly encouraging outlook, particularly from the point of view of South African coloureds, Indians, and the tribes that come off worst in the struggle for power. Unlike many whites, they have nowhere else to go. But, never mind. Let us accept that nothing much better is likely to be on offer and that such a system, for all its defects, would be more natural, more stable and also more ethically acceptable than the present anomalous and morally detestable arrangements.

All this trips off the tongue quite easily. Yet the crucial, and practical, question is not about what we would like in the far-distant future but what we would like now. If we will the end for other people, we have to think realistically about the means - and not only about our own contribution to them but also about how the situation presents itself to those South Africans, the vast majority, who above all want to avoid bloodshed and even more economic misery.

Very few prominent people elsewhere are speaking or even thinking in these terms. What really matters to them is not the fate of Southern Africa but domestic political calculation. In the US, for instance, most of the present agitation arises mainly from the internal frustrations of the civil rights movement and the desire of the Democrats to find a stick with which to beat the Reagan administration. In France, it is a question of commercial and political links with black Africa and President Mitterrand's desperate search for votes on the left, now that it looks as if votes in the centre will not be forthcoming.

In the Third World, it is more simply a question of striking the right racial attitudes for domestic credibility. These considerations may or may not produce the best policies for Southern Africa, objectively speaking, but if they do turn out for the best, it will be by accident. The left can afford the luxury of moral respectability on South Africa, just as the right could afford it on Poland a couple of years back, for they know that if the

heavens fall in, the course of justice being done, there will be no skin off their noses.

In fact, by what moralists will regard as a sinister paradox, the outsiders who are likely to take, in the literal sense, the most responsible view of the South African situation may well be those, like the British government, who have been forced by purely practical considerations to recognize the need for change but who have a great deal of trade and investment to lose by a hostile host.

For this reason I don't find the Foreign Office efforts to find something positive to say about Botha's speech all that creditable. For if change without tragedy is your hope, then Botha and his (to our eyes extremely unattractive) political skills are about the only possible ally of the left within the present framework of South African politics. Anyone further to the right would do nothing at all. Anyone who admitted being further to the left would play into the hands of Dr Andries Treurnicht and the break-away Conservative Party.

Botha certainly has no intention of presiding over the transition to a regime in which black majority rule comes even into his dreams. We can be sure that he intends to keep the ultimate reins of power in white hands. But the things that have been said and done by his government in the last few years, with the consent of the Afrikaners and in the name of realism, are more or less bound, if not put into reverse, to ensure a more radical outcome in the long run in spite of his intentions.

The nub of the matter is the fact that while support depends on white prosperity, and white prosperity depends on ever more efficiently deployed and highly educated black labour, this has already entailed the critical step of allowing black unions; it has already meant the relaxation of the pass and housing laws and it has caused the rise of a black middle class whose disappointed children are the new radicals. Its logic is on the point of cracking the homelands policy and therefore robbing apartheid of its only claim to intellectual coherence. Given time (and probably not too much, at that) it will force the government into much more genuine negotiation with black leaders and into further drastic modifications of the system.

Seen from the standpoint of the laager, this is a frightful prospect. It may be true that each grudging concession by him is bound to create more explosive pressure. It may be equally true that any attempt to leap ahead of expectation by a dramatic gesture, of the kind being urged on him before the Durban speech, simply has no basis either in his own imagination or in the support of his political constituency, and by ensuring a backlash would produce the opposite effect of that intended by its proponents.

It may, in short, be too late for anything except an eventual blood-bath. I don't know. What I am certain of, however, is that the rest of the world has no right to assume this still less, even surreptitiously, to hope it. Outsiders should be content to warn and to encourage the economic prosperity of South Africa which is actually the best chance of peaceful change.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Bike, trucks and a grand piano

He looked like a Scottish policeman, but there was a lot of writing on his shoulder which revealed him to be a Lothian Region Transport inspector. I thought he might be able to help me in my quest for a bicycle hire shop. No disrespect to Lothian Transport, but a bike is the best way of getting round Edinburgh.

Well, now, there used to be a shop near Bruntsfield Place that hired out bikes, but they've closed down. No, I don't think there's anywhere left that does cycle hire now.

That's a bit strange for a capital city.

Oh, aye, it's a dump, right enough," he said cheerfully. The pleasant irony in which Edinburgh people are prepared to run down their own city is quite charming. The roads are in terrible shape, they tell you. It's a stuffy old place outside Festival time. No, we haven't started building the opera house yet. Yes, it's been the worst summer in living memory. Even the winters in Edinburgh are better than the summers now.

Well, Edinburgh doesn't look a dump to the outside eye, even if it has its fair share of unfinished buildings and, in the case of the opera house, a big hole in the ground. Otherwise, it has a good claim to be the most handsome city in Britain. It's the Festival itself that gives the place a temporary air.

Outside the Fringe Club, for instance, there is an array in which eight huge trucks are marked BBC. Not a temporary vetting station, you might think, but the back-up army for Russell Harty who is doing the Fringe Club, involving a staff of no fewer than 45 people, according to a slightly bemused radio producer that I bumped into there.

"I'm up here to do the same number of programmes for Radio 4 as Harty is doing for television," she said, gazing at the Harty army, "and I got all my equipment into the back of a Ford Cortina. It makes you think."

It makes you think, for instance, that radio is a more advanced medium than television. Probably the best programme that comes out of the festival is Bryan Maule's late night show on Radio 2, which takes place live for a couple of hours at the Caledonian Hotel.

"Offen enough," he said. "It depends where you are. If you keep out of certain areas, you won't have any trouble."

"That's all right," I said. "I'm performing in the university area."

"That's the worst area for bicycle stealing," he said. "It's a dump, right enough."

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RAJIV'S RESOLVE

In the last month the Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi has concluded separate agreements to solve two of the country's longest-running regional disputes. In July he signed a peace accord with the moderate president of the Sikh Akali Dal to restore calm in the Punjab. Last week he achieved a similar solution with the Assam student leaders ending the six-year agitation against illegal immigrants in that state. Both settlements are evidence of the importance the new premier attaches to clearing away the troublesome legacy of conflict bequeathed by his mother. He hopes to have thereby removed the obstacles to the realization of his own goal for India, that of taking it into the 21st century.

What is striking about the Punjab and the Assam accords is what they reveal of Mr Gandhi's political style. On each occasion he exhibited a courageous determination to take political risks and make calculated concessions. In sharp contrast to his mother's stubborn inflexibility, Rajiv Gandhi has shown himself to be both flexible and able to accommodate his adversaries. The articles of the Assam agreement make this apparent. At the heart of that dispute was the presence in the state of over a million allegedly illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. Because of their insecurity they had become loyal voters of the government of the day. This gave the ruling Congress Party a firm base of votes and a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. The Assamese, on the other hand, viewed the migration with dread. They feared the social and political domination of their state by the Bangladeshis. Thus they were determined to secure their disenfranchisement and deportation. Under Mrs Gandhi the situation had reached impasse.

The resolution of the problems in Assam and Punjab will certainly clear some of the blocks on Mr Gandhi's road to the 21st century, although terrorism in both states, such as Tuesday's

murder of Sant Longowal and last week's Assam bomb, will for a while continue to make it a rough but possible journey. The decision to go ahead with the Punjab elections in September will help. There are other hurdles, however, that could prove more insurmountable. These are the relatively complex and steadily simmering issues that have been neglected by Mr Gandhi's predecessors, and whose handling will provide the real challenge to his ambitions.

The most immediate of these is the need to restore confidence in India's police force. Decades of lax discipline, low salaries and poor training have reduced the Indian policeman to an ineffectual, often corrupt, man in uniform. Political interference has further drained morale. As a result, the force is viewed as at best helpless but at worst as irresponsible and unaccountable.

In the longer term the more serious challenge for Mr Gandhi's modernization plans is the invidious involvement of religion in Indian politics. It complicates the country's existing communal divisions and is exploited by unscrupulous politicians to broaden their limited appeal. In both Assam and Punjab it underlies the wider issues. Yet in a country divided by caste and creed, religious-based politics can only reopen the fissures under the surface. They should have no place in the public forum of a secular state. A modern India determined to enter the 21st century on a par with the west must restrict its political divisions to matters of policy or principle. This means that the Akali Dals, the Muslim Leagues or the numerous Hindu parties must be allowed to wither away.

The initiative in tackling the police or the canker of religion in politics must come from Mr Gandhi. While there can be little doubt that he recognizes the full dimensions of these problems, has he got the power, the will and the ability to act? If he has not, India's entrance into the 21st century could prove to be far more than just 15 years away.

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

The SDP's paper on Crime and Policing, out in time to be picked over at the party's conference, quotes the Lord Chief Justice:

Neither police, nor courts nor prisons can solve the problem of the rising crime rate. By the time the criminal falls into the hands of the police, and more particularly by the time he reaches the court, it is too late. The remedy, if it can be found, must be sought a good deal earlier.

Accordingly the SDP puts much emphasis on crime prevention, which far from being the preserve of policemen and security guards is everybody's business.

It commends neighbourhood watch schemes under the supervision of the police. These are indeed a form of community action of great potential and it is a pity they are catching on so slowly. The SDP also has the idea of charging local authorities with the statutory duty of providing a crime prevention unit whose first task would be to ensure that all the council's policy decisions and executive acts took account of the claims of crime prevention wherever they were relevant.

The Home Secretary too will soon be on the beat again in front of his own conference, an annual event conducive to a breach of the party peace when the Tories are in power. As it happens Mr Leon Brittan had something to say about prevention in his first speech, for he had beaten the SDP to it by setting up a crime prevention unit within the Home Office. That speech is better remembered for its severity towards the related withdrawal of eligibility of parole, and an accelerated building programme. One passage in particular may return to haunt him this year: "I am glad to say that the measures I have outlined today will put us on course for ending prison overcrowding by the end of the decade."

There were then 43,500 prisoners in "certified normal accommodation" for 39,000. There are now 48,000 prisoners which is 4,500 more, a figure equal to two thirds of all the extra places provided in the fourteen new prisons contained in his building programme, which still has seven years to run. Overcrowding is not receding, it is not even being held, it is getting worse, as Mr Brittan acknowledged in his decision the other day to bring a wartime air station near Doncaster into emergency commission as a prison.

The overcrowding is degrading for the worst affected in-

mates; it is depressing for prison officers; it makes hopeless the anyway difficult reformatory ambitions of the system; it is a crying scandal as it affects prisoners on remand, who have been convicted of no offence; and it is dangerous in its propensity to prison violence.

The Home Secretary will be expected to have something definite to say about this state of affairs in his conference speech. The best thing he could say is that he means to adjust planned resources by taking from building and giving to expansion of manpower, both in the prison service and in the probation service. The need for a substantial programme of works remains principally to replace or renovate obsolete prison buildings. But he cannot build his way out of overcrowding. Rather he must try to check the trend towards higher frequency of imprisonment.

The call for more bail hostels is very urgent, both to relieve local prisons and to reduce the injustice of incarcerating in noisome conditions men and women who are awaiting trial. But the main emphasis should fall on developing forms of non-custodial sentence as an option for the courts in cases where the protection of society does not require imprisonment.

Those punishments are cheaper to administer than prison, but they make demands on trained manpower, whether police, probation officers or extra-mural deployment of prison officers. Provision should be made for that. Community service orders, supervision orders and day attendances there are, but they still leave room for other forms of non-custodial sentence of varying severity. Mr Brittan's conference will be reminded that the possible range extends to birching.

Two sets of statistics need noting. The first shows that the United Kingdom imprisons a significantly higher proportion of its population than any of the other major countries of western Europe; and one would be hard put to it to show that the aberration either corresponds to exceptional criminal tendencies over here or secures us exceptional protection from crime. The other set of statistics shows a steady rise in recent years in the proportion of those sentenced for indictable offences who are immediately imprisoned. Both reinforce the case for development of penal policy in a non-custodial direction, while maintaining a severe custodial policy and strict regime for dangerous and specially heinous offenders.

Providing 'remedy in our courts'

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, It is with some concern that one hears that the Home Office is due to report to ministers on three options available to H.M. Government in contest with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR): 1. Withdrawal - which is always possible under article 65.

2. Abrogation of the right of individual petition, which the UK has accepted since 1966, although no provision appears to exist which covers such limited withdrawal.

3. Incorporation of the Convention in our own law, which appears to be the only viable option - in some form.

The main source of the problem, reflected by the defeat of HMG in 12 cases out of 14 at Strasbourg since 1975, is the absence of any 'remedy in our courts' when our own law conflicts with the Convention. For in such circumstances article 50 empowers the ECHR to award compensation and under article 53, we are obliged to carry in amendments to our own law in compliance with the decision of the ECHR. By case law decisions our courts are inhibited from recording recognition to the provisions of the Convention and the relevant body of jurisprudence which has evolved. Our obligations under article 53 may only be discharged by Parliament.

The situation is not merely unsatisfactory; it is wholly unacceptable. But there is no need for the introduction of another Bill of Rights or tinkering with our unwritten Constitution. If by statute we were to extend the developing process of judicial review to ensure that the provisions of the Convention, as interpreted by the jurisprudence of the ECHR, were taken into account, with full recourse to our own appellate procedures, then an appropriate 'remedy in our courts' would be afforded.

The incidence of the jurisdiction of the ECHR under article 50 would be curtailed: the need for Parliament to carry in amending legislation to secure compliance with article 53 would be removed; the compliance with obligations willingly undertaken would be ensured; and the main source of contention and conflict would be eradicated, thus reducing the area of intervention. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY, House of Lords, August 19.

Image of Liverpool

From Mr K. F. Hallam

Sir, I am distressed to read, yet again, further reports (August 12, 13, 14) about the decline of the city of Liverpool. Your readers may not be aware, however, that there is another side to the story and it must be told and sold if this city is to survive.

I employ almost 200 people in Toxteth and am possibly the largest employer in Liverpool 8. The people who work with me are conscientious, loyal employees. Many of them are as dismayed as I am at the appalling image that the media continue to present.

Of course Liverpool has massive problems - these are facts that cannot be denied - but in this respect we are not alone, just more obvious and exposed. These problems will not go away; they have to be tackled, not only by local and national politicians, but by anybody who can contribute positively. Dare I suggest that the media have a role to play in that they could talk to leaders of industry and commerce in this city and portray the successes?

There are decent people in this city. They need support and encouragement, because without hope for the future this community has nothing.

By dwelling on the social decay and despair which so obviously exists in Liverpool, the media only embellish the problems. I recognise the fact that good news is rarely "media" news, but there is no doubt that this city needs better advocates than it currently has to report the strengths and vitality that undoubtedly exist. Yours faithfully, K. F. HALLAM, Managing Director, Allport & Layfield Ltd., Holden Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, August 15.

Little-known phrases

From Mr Arnold Hunt

Sir, Captain Clarke's *Persian Manual* of 1877 (Mr Murdoch's letter, August 12) is by no means the first phrase book provided for the use of the Englishman abroad. The *Gentleman's Pocket Companion for Travellers into Foreign Parts* (London, 1723) offers, in English, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Flemish, phrases to meet every eventuality.

Further questions on MORI's apologia

From the Chairman of the Liberal Party

Sir, We must all congratulate Robert Worcester, of MORI, on the engaging frankness and apparent thoroughness with which he conducts psychological post-mortems ("Brecon: how we got it wrong", August 17). Would that politicians admitted and analysed their mistakes as comprehensively.

Unfortunately, Mr Worcester neglects the questions which cause most public concern. These related to the commissioning, publication, timing and presentation of the four pre-polling day surveys undertaken by MORI, rather than to the detailed points of sampling accuracy on which he concentrates.

Commentators have grown used to (and tend to discount) consistently lower MORI figures for national Alliance support, compared with other polls. We understand that this is due to a different order of questioning.

Similarly, we recognise that MORI has more often than not under-rated Alliance support in eve-of-poll by-election surveys (as Mr Worcester points out for Croxson, Gower and Brecon) while over-rating Labour.

It is helpful that he has disposed of the "late swing" alibi in the case. We are also glad to note that he has now ditched the preposterous theory that MORI's forecast of a big Labour lead helped the Liberal candidate to win.

But these are of comparatively minor significance compared with the major issues which caused concern about MORI's role over Brecon. Mr Worcester fails to clear up confusion on three points: 1. Who commissioned the first MORI poll, which appeared to show the Labour candidate as the credible challenger to the Conservatives?

2. Was it commissioned by the Labour Party as a private poll, and then taken over by the *Daily Mirror*, as has been suggested? Since Mr Worcester is the Labour Party's appointed poll adviser, his leaders (and the *Daily Mirror*) can surely spare him further embarrassment and allow him to reveal this information?

3. Why did Mr Worcester conclude that the telephone recall poll was worth undertaking, if he felt its results would be too unreliable to justify separate publication, or to colour the forecast in the published report? He writes: "If we had chosen to go with the telephone recall we would have been heroes, but that choice was really never possible."

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It was these questions which caused me to write, on behalf of my national executive, to the Market Research Society and the Press Council some five weeks ago. I trust that Mr Worcester's apologia will not be taken as sufficient reassurance and that these wider questions will not be swept under the carpet. Yours etc, PAUL TYLER, Chairman, The Liberal Party, 1 Whitehall, SW1, August 20.

Driver-only trains

From Mr Thomas N. Elston

Sir, Relative to the depressing and damaging dispute as to the employment of a "guard" on trains, there can be little doubt that the presence of a second trained employee of the railway should be on all through and fast trains, although they might be omitted on short, open-seated local trains such as that between Liverpool and Crewe. Some of the reasons are:

1. The second employee would probably be able to take some action to avoid an accident if the driver was suddenly incapacitated by a "blackout" or other reason.

2. He would be of value and reassurance to passengers in the event of an emergency.

Ability to judge on 'Real Lives'

From Mr Barry Cox and others

Sir, We believe the controversy over the *Real Lives* programme has moved on to a quite different level from its origins.

The issue is now to do with the ability of the public at large, rather than their guardians, to judge for themselves the rights and wrongs of such programming.

The public has been subjected for many weeks, in newspapers of all kinds and on television, to constant and lengthy reports of the development of the controversy, including the views of a number of critics who have been allowed to see the film. It is now, in our view, downright insulting to the British public not to let them see and judge for themselves what all the fuss is about.

After all, any propaganda element in the film may or may not have had been well and truly neutralised by the debate.

The BBC should show the unedited version of the programme in a prominent slot as soon as possible. The showing should be followed by published measurement of a cross-section of the audience's response which may, or may not, make the programme makers question their right in future to go against the grain of public feeling.

In these circumstances the film would not be aired because it is a film about Northern Ireland. It would be shown because there are apparent divisions between the professionals at the BBC and those in authority over them on the question of the British public's ability to judge such material for themselves.

It is time the public joined the debate. The undersigned hold, or have held, senior positions in current affairs broadcasting. Yours faithfully, BARRY COX (London Weekend Television), JOHN GAU (Chairman, Independent Programme Producers' Association), JEREMY WALLINGTON, Limehouse Productions Limited, Limehouse Studios, Canary Wharf, West India Docks, E14.

Alliance with Japan

From Mr W. H. Henderson

Sir, In your otherwise well balanced and perceptive leading article today ("Beyond VJ Day") you say that the West's failure to accept Japan after its 1905 victory over Russia played a part in the rise of militarism, but I do not believe that this is historically correct.

On the contrary, Great Britain and Japan signed the Anglo-Japanese Alliance (Nichiei-Domei) in 1902 and this was revised and renewed in 1905 and further extended in 1911 for a further 10 years to 1921, when it was not renewed by the British, largely due to pressure from the United States, at the time of the Washington Conference.

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance gave the Japanese precisely that measure of recognition and support, by the then most powerful nation in the world, which they needed and it was a main plank in the structure of Japanese foreign policy. During this period Japan enjoyed a golden age of constitutional democracy and the British parliamentary system was highly prized.

The failure by the British to renew this treaty came as a severe shock to Japan and was a major factor in the rise of militarism and ultimately drove the Japanese into the arms of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

It is certainly worth speculating whether, had the Anglo-Japanese Alliance been continued, Nazi Germany might have shrunk from promoting the Second World War. Yours truly, W. H. HENDERSON, Marden Grange, Devizes, Wiltshire, August 15.

Political funds

From the Director of Aims of Industry

Sir, I must quarrel with your leader "Willington bondage?" (August 14) in which you state that it is doubtful that a misleading presentation of the issues has led to the overwhelming vote by trade unions, so far, for a political fund.

What we have seen so far have been the results of very expensive, year-long campaigns by unions in which no material has been issued putting the case against political funds, and in which the case for has been misleadingly put in a flood of propaganda. Unions have, for example, told their members that failure to have a political fund will mean that they cannot talk to the Government. Unions have instructed their vote influencers not to go to people who might vote "no". Individual union efforts have

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 23 1911

The world's most famous painting was recovered in December 1913 in Florence when an Italian, Vincenzo Peruggia, a former workman at the Louvre communicated with a dealer in that city. He stated that he was "... happy to restore, Da Vinci's Italian and I do not want the picture given back to the Louvre. ... For over two years it had been concealed in a suitcase in Peruggia's garret in Paris. On June 3 1914 he was sentenced in Rome to one year and 15 days' imprisonment - which he took 'very philosophically'."

LEONARDO'S "LA GIOCONDA"

DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE LOUVRE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PARIS, AUG. 22. This afternoon, by the news of the disappearance of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece "La Gioconda" from the Louvre. The fact that what is, perhaps, the most famous picture in the Louvre should have been selected for abstraction suggests the idea that the deed is the act of a person who wished to show up the inadequate supervision of the works of art in the Museum.

PARIS, AUG. 22. The discovery that "La Gioconda" had disappeared was made at midday and the picture gallery was immediately closed. The Minister of Fine Arts was advised by telegraph.

LATER. There is so far no trace of the missing picture, but its frame and the glass have been found on a staircase of the Louvre. It appears that the picture was mislaid last night, but it was supposed that it had been taken to be photographed. The Louvre is closed on Mondays. The only suggested clue is a remark made by a visiting mason to a companion, who was passing through the gallery yesterday to the effect that the "Mona Lisa" was the finest picture in the Louvre.

The picture is painted on a wooden panel, which made its clandestine removal all the more difficult. - Reuter.

The Theft of "La Gioconda"

The news that LEONARDO DA VINCI'S "La Gioconda" has been stolen from the Louvre will cause something like consternation amongst all lovers of the arts. In any case, the picture has been protected by the most elaborate security measures we have yet to learn. All we know is that the picture was mislaid on Monday night, but it was believed until midday yesterday to have been removed to be photographed. Up to last night, it had not been recovered, nor had the thief or thieves been traced. The very object of such a crime is difficult to guess. To dispose of a work of such world-wide fame without detection is, or ought to be, impossible in any country. That an impressionist admirer of the painting, with hunted moral perceptions, should have run the risks of stealing it for his own delectation is to say the least improbable. Books and curios have been sometimes conveyed by consignments from public and private collections for surreptitious enjoyment at home, but not only may they be appropriated with comparative ease, but they can readily be hidden away in a press or cupboard, and taken out for moments or hours of furtive pleasure. Guilty joys of that sort are almost wholly denied to the thief or the receiver of a stolen picture which is universally known. He dare not show it anywhere where it may be seen, nor impart knowledge of his acquisition to his dearest friend. People in Paris seem to be consoling themselves with the suggestion that the theft may be a practical joke, or that it may have been committed to demonstrate to the Louvre authorities and to the public how very ill the artistic treasures of the nation are guarded. It is a comfortable theory, and we shall all rejoice should it prove to be well founded. We cannot, however, forget that, although the reasons for not stealing well-known pictures are exceptionally strong, thefts of the kind have in fact been committed. We need hardly remind ourselves of the sensational disappearance of GAINSBOROUGH'S "Duchess of Devonshire" from MISSISS AGNEW'S gallery in 1876, or of the way in which the "Nancy Parsons" of the same period, and Sir Joshua REYNOLDS' "Mrs Van der Meer" were cut out of their frames in the late Mr CHARLES WERTHEIMER'S house in 1907. ...

A bridge too far

From Mr P. G. Peacock

Sir, President Botha has perhaps forgotten that Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon in 49BC was an illegal act which, as Plutarch describes, "opened the gates wide to war on land and sea. The city of Rome was overrun, the magistracies could no longer govern it, nor the eloquence of any orator quiet it. It was all but shipwrecked by the violence of its own tempestuous agitation."

Yours faithfully, P. G. PEACOCK, Librarian, University of Stirling.

Needs and wants

From Mr Sheridan Morley

Sir, Like Bernard Levin (August 20) I, too, at the breakfast table, came across a catalogue offering a waterproof radio that would work in the shower for a mere £24.95, plus postage and packing. Under the heading "The radio that will last" I actually sent away for it, however.

I did this not because "there is a realness in our air that makes people dissatisfied with what they have got", nor yet because there is in my life "an emptiness which cries out to be filled". I sent away for it because all my life I have wanted to listen to radio news while under the shower, and now I can: £24.95, even plus postage and packing, did not seem too high a price to pay for the fulfilment of a life's ambition.

Sometimes the way we live now is really a lot easier to explain than Mr Levin would seem to think. Yours SHERIDAN MORLEY, Arts Editor, *Punch*, 23-27 Tudor Street, EC4.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 22: The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Dye Airport, Aberdeen this morning from Canada and subsequently travelled to Balmoral Castle.

Squadron Leader Timothy Finnemore was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, president, the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, will launch a boat for disabled anglers, sponsored by the Handicapped Anglers' Trust, to mark the setting up of the trust, at Fishmongers' Hall on September 27. Princess Anne will visit the Bishop Burton College of Agriculture, Bishop Burton, near Beverley, North Humberside on October 22 and will open the Bailey Ward, Princess Royal Hospital, Hull, North Humberside.

The Prince of Wales, patron, Royal Society for Nature Conservation, will attend a reception given by the society at the Natural History Museum on October 22.

Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Corps of Signals, will name a high speed 125 locomotive "Royal Signals" at York Railway Station and attend a British Rail reception on October 23.

Princess Anne will visit the 2nd Signal Regiment at Watlington Camp, Oxford, on October 23, and in the evening will attend a performance by the Spanish Riding School of Vienna at Wembley Arena. The Prince of Wales, president International Council of the United World College, will give a reception for second year students of Atlantic College at Kensington Palace on October 23.

Princess Anne will attend the installation of a new court, can hiring ceremony, installation service, Master's reception and Court luncheon of the Carvens' company and will be inducted as Senior Warden, at Tallow Chandeliers' Hall on October 24.

Birthdays today
Mr Geoff Capes, 36; Dr Carl Dalmatich, 74; Mr Alexander Gilmore, 34; Sir William Gorell James, 76; Sir George Harvey-Watt, QC, 82; Sir John Hoskyns, 58; Mr Gene Kelly, 73; Lord Kissin, 73; Mr S. Kitchen, 72; Brigadier C. A. Langley, 88; Mr James Quinn, 66; Sir Roy Strong, 50; Mr Peter Thomson, 56; Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Vincent, 54; Sir Brian Young, 63.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr David Butler, Head of the administrative support and corporate planning division in the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, to take charge, on promotion of a new Under Secretary in the Treasury. The new group will be known as Running Costs and Superannuation (RCS), and will assume responsibility for the work of those divisions presently dealing with manpower, staff inspection and evaluation, superannuation and industrial relations.

Mr Jonathan Farquharson, at present a Deputy Commissioner in the Charity Commission office in Liverpool to be a Charity Commissioner, from October 1, to succeed Mr F. W. Trinder.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. P. Ansell and Miss S. B. Pettman. The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs N. Ansell, of North Aston, Oxfordshire, and Sarah, only daughter of the late Mr P. Pettman and Mrs B. Hammond, of Tenterden, Kent.

Mr F. Beardmore-Gray and Miss S. J. Cox. The engagement is announced between Felix, son of Mr and Mrs F. Beardmore-Gray, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cox, of Wells, Somerset.

Mr T. J. Beazley and Miss L. Weston. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Beazley, of Shaugh Prior, Devon, and Isabel, daughter of Mr W. Weston and the late Mrs A. Weston, and stepdaughter, Mrs S. Weston, of Tottenhall, Wolverhampton.

Mr R. J. Bonham-Carter and Miss J. B. Anstey. The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robin Bonham-Carter, of Durban, and Jane, daughter of Mr Peter Austin, of Durban, and Mrs Shirley MacKenzie, of Hilton, Natal.

Mr D. J. Cressy and Miss F. E. Donald. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs J. F. Cressy, of Bourne, Lincolnshire, and Fiona, daughter of the Rev M. C. and Mrs Donald, of Cambridge.

Mr E. P. Edgumbe and Miss I. C. Czerniawska. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs O. P. Edgumbe, of Exmouth, Devon, and Irene, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Czerniawski, of Dulwich, London.

Mr S. J. Foster and Miss C. R. Mocatta. The engagement is announced between Scott, elder son of Mr and Mrs Monty Foster, of 28 Pangbourne Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mocatta, of Lauderdale, Berkhamsed, Hertfordshire.

Mr C. P. Harrison and Miss F. J. Lloyd. The engagement is announced between Christopher Parker, younger son of the late Lieutenant Colonel E. C. Harrison and of Mrs Marian Harrison, of Bosbury, Herefordshire, late of Windermere, Cumbria, and Felicity Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. H. Lloyd, of All Strutton, Shropshire.

Mr D. Hulton-Harrop and Miss J. Warren. The engagement is announced between David, only son of Major and Mrs R. H. del. Hulton-Harrop, of Gatten, Shropshire, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K. M. Warren, of Battlefield, Shropshire.

Marriages

The Hon C. H. M. Jeffreys and Miss A. E. Hobbes. A service of blessing was held yesterday at St James's Piccadilly after the marriage of the Hon Christopher Jeffreys, elder son of Lord Jeffreys, of Hall Farm House, Persim, Capes, Northamptonshire, and Lady Edward Clarke, of Foxhill House, Guiting Power, Gloucestershire, and Miss Anne Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of Mrs Derek Johnson, of Boden Hall, Scholar Green, Cheshire. The Rev Donald Reeves officiated.

A reception was held at The Betty and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. T. Fox and Miss E. M. Sheridan. The marriage took place on Saturday, August 17, 1985, in St Andrews, Scotland, between Mr Robert T. Fox, only son of Mr Robert Fox, of Tampa, Florida, and Miss Elizabeth Maria Sheridan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Sheridan, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

A reception was held at the Old Course Golf and Country Club, St Andrews, and the honeymoon will be spent in the South of France.

Archaeology



Archaeologists working on the latest excavations at Beeston Castle (Photographs: Warren Harrison).

Bronze Age fort shows its metal

From Alan Hamilton, Chester



Penny Noake, assistant director of the excavation reassembling an earthenware vessel.

Archaeologists have uncovered the rare remains of a Bronze Age metal foundry beneath the medieval ruins of Beeston Castle, on a high knoll above the Cheshire plain.

Axes, spear-heads, knives, and fragments of sword blades thought to date from about the tenth century BC, have been discovered in recent weeks, along with crucibles and clay moulds. Beeston is one of only a handful of Bronze Age workshops so far discovered in Britain.

Evidence of prehistoric occupation was first unearthed 10 years ago, while archaeologists were studying the foundations of the thirteenth century castle. Since then, the site has yielded evidence of occupation from the Stone Age, with finds ranging from neolithic arrowheads to Civil War musket balls.

Dr Peter Hough, the excavation director, said: "Any new hill fort is an important find. This is a particularly rare example, because of its many levels of occupation - neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Medieval, and Civil War."

"There are other Bronze Age sites in Britain which may yield a wider picture of life in that era, but to find such evidence of metalworking is particularly rare."

The team of archaeologists working on the site within the ruined castle walls hope to find the exact location of the ancient blacksmith's hearth.

Digging has already yielded ample evidence of later Iron Age activity, including charred grain, sharpening stones, and stone weights from weaving looms; later signs have included a sixteenth century soldier's armoured jerkin. The diggers frequently come across much more modern detritus, particularly bottles, from the annual Bunbury Fair which has been held within the castle for more than a century.

The Bronze Age material is being regarded as Beeston's most significant discovery. The site, five miles north-west of Northwich, is thought to have lain on an ancient north-south trade route, where southern flints were traded for Cheshire salt. There is also evidence of copper deposits in the area.

Some of the bronze artefacts are being studied at the British Museum, but it is hoped they will be returned to Beeston for permanent display.

The finds indicate that Beeston may have been occupied more or less continuously from 4,000 years ago until a small group of Royalist commandos captured the 300-strong parliamentary garrison on December 13, 1643.

Yesterday there were only crumpled and intact archaeological sifting the red sandstone soil, and day trippers enjoying the panoramic vista from Crewe to Liverpool that made it such an easily defended site 40 centuries before such towns were even dreamed of.

Romanesque bishops' palace found

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The remains of a magnificent palace of the Bishops of Winchester have been found in a development of old peoples' homes at Witney in Oxfordshire. The base of a massive tower has been excavated, with a multi-sected lavatory.

The palace was probably built by Henry of Blois, brother of King Stephen and one of the richest men in Europe, who was Bishop of Winchester from 1129 to 1171. He had several luxurious palaces scattered across southern England, including that at Wolvesey in Winchester.

The existence of a substantial building at Witney, on a site due east of St Mary's Church, was known from a drawing of about 1730, which showed the ruins of a Romanesque hall similar to that known at Wolvesey, and from a nineteenth-century report of large amounts of masonry on the site of Mount House.

The present excavation, which was carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit with the cooperation of the developers, Pearce Homes, and funding from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, found large areas of buildings west and south of the Victorian house, which has been retained in the development.

A moat and curtain wall defended the site on the north side, with a bridge on the line of the present drive leading to a gatehouse. The interior of the palace seems to have been a courtyard surrounded by ranges of buildings, similar to other episcopal palaces such as that at Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire still standing, and the palace of the bishops of Winchester just west of Southwark Cathedral.

which was excavated last year. The most impressive exposed part of the Witney palace is the lowest storey of a great tower, dated to the first half of the twelfth century by the pottery and architectural style of the remains. It originally stood three or four storeys in height, and at some point a central pier was added to hold up the higher floors. About 2.5 metres are still standing.

Deeply played windows gave on to the outside, but in a subsequent development the base of the tower was covered by an embankment retained by high walls; that on the south side still survives as a prominent feature of the local landscape.

The windows were blocked, but one had a stone channel built out westwards to join a light well outside the banking. While a defensive function for the embankment, during the wars of Stephen and Matilda around 1140, seems the most obvious solution, Mr Brian Durham, who directed the excavations, suggests that it may have been part of a landscaping programme copying Italian ideas of the period. Such a development had been suggested for Wolvesey Palace, Mr Durham said.

To the east of the tower block a latrine was built: while the facility itself at first-floor level, has now gone, the cesspit below remains, with four arched sewers leading out to the east, and the latrine above must have had multiple stalls, Mr Durham thinks.

Most of the pottery recovered is unglazed domestic ware, but some glazed roofing tiles suggest that the roofs, as well as the walls, of the palace were an impressive sight.

University news

Oxford
WOLFFSON COLLEGE. Vice-Chancellor for 1986-87, Dr N. J. Armstrong, formerly of the University of Cambridge, has been elected. Dr Armstrong is a Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Wolfson Foundation. He was formerly a Fellow of the Wolfson Foundation. He was formerly a Fellow of the Wolfson Foundation.

OBITUARY

THE REV SIR HERBERT ANDREW

First permanent head of DES

The Rev Sir Herbert Andrew KCMG, CB, died on August 18 at his home at Edenbridge, Kent, where he was assisted by his wife, Mrs M. Andrew. He was 75. He took Anglican orders after a distinguished career in the Civil Service from which he had retired in 1970 as permanent under secretary of state at the Department of Education and Science.

George Herbert Andrew, was born on March 19, 1910 and grew up in modest circumstances outside Manchester. He was educated at Godley School, Manchester Grammar School and Cor Christi College, Oxford, where he read mathematics. After a few years in the Patent Office, he joined the Board of Trade and ascended through the hierarchy of that department.

He was made a CB in 1956 and in 1961 he started to commute to and from Brussels as the Board of Trade member of the team assembled under Sir Eric Roll (as he then was) to support Mr Edward Heath in the abortive negotiations for Britain's entry into the European Economic Community.

His firm grasp of the issues made him a tough negotiator, respected alike by the members of his own team as a defender of the Board of Trade position, and also by the Europeans. He was not quite the European's typical English mandarin - a small man with a slightly shaggy moustache, sucking on his pipe and mixing a profound scepticism (which extended, it may be, to the Common Market) with a remarkable grasp of detail and understanding of the essentials.

On his return to London in 1963 he was made a KCMG and promoted to succeed Dame Mary Smilton as permanent secretary at the Ministry of Education, and when the department was expanded to take in higher education following the Robbins Report, he became the first permanent under secretary of state at the Department of Education and Science.

He had had no previous government experience of education, and he remained throughout his six-year sojourn a somewhat detached figure.

COLONEL GUY de PASS

Colonel Guy Eliot de Pass, DSO, OBE, died on August 16 at the age of 86.

Major-General Sir James d'Avigdor-Goldsmid writes: Colonel de Pass joined the 4th Dragoon Guards in 1917 proving himself to be a tough and fearless troop leader, not only in the boxing ring, but much more importantly, as a leader of patrols in trench warfare.

He was to make his name in March 1918 at the time of the Germans' final push. On three successive days his actions included a valuable reconnaissance patrol, followed by a seizure of a village previously abandoned by our troops, and then the holding of an important crossroads under heavy fire thereby staving off retreat at a critical point.

He was recommended for a VC for these actions but was awarded a DSO, which in itself was quite remarkable for a 19 year old 2nd Lieutenant.

Although his heart was in the regiment, his father forced him out in the twenties to go into the City. Seeing the approach of war he became a keen Territorial, reaching the rank of Major in the 4th Bn The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

On the outbreak of war he held a number of staff appointments, although in his forties that was not enough for him. He wanted to get within sound of the guns, so in 1943 he became Deputy Commander of the

MR G. W. S. MELHUISH

Anthony Hill and Patrick Hughes write: Mr George William Seymour Melhuish, who died in Bristol on July 19, 1985, was both a painter and a philosopher. He was born in Bristol on August 26 1916 and in 1962 he had a retrospective exhibition of his work at the Royal West of England Academy.

As a young artist he visited Paris to study, where he met Braque, Brancusi, Zadkine, Chagall, Cézanne and Georges Sanguet. His expressionistic style turned to abstraction in the mid-fifties, and in 1954 he returned to Paris where he became associated with Michel Tapié, the leading dealer in tachisme.

In 1972 he held a further exhibition of recent paintings at the Royal West of England Academy. Melhuish's art is characterised by a vivid use of colour, and an adventurous

MR J. B. HYDE

Mr John Bean Hyde, who was appointed chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse Japhet plc, prominent bankers, in 1981, died on August 20 after a short illness. He was 57. From 1984 he was executive deputy chairman of Charterhouse J. Rothschild.

The son of J. B. Hyde, he was born on January 7, 1928. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and Magdalen College, Oxford. He became an associate of the Institute of Bankers in

1954 and a Fellow in 1972. He was vice-president of Citibank from 1951 to 1968 and a director of Hill Samuel and Co from 1968 to 1970.

He was chief executive of London International/Chemical Bank International Ltd from 1970 to 1981 and the Charterhouse Group plc from 1982 to 1984.

He married in 1953 Patricia Gabrielle Mebes-Gray. They had one son who died and one daughter.

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Science report

New sea 'wall' restores a beach

By Gareth Haw Davies

The coastal research unit's solution - building sea walls which produce the conditions which sweep the beach's sand out to sea.

Now, at Portcawl, in mid-Glamorgan, South Wales, the Coastal Engineering Research Unit at the Polytechnic of Wales has demonstrated a simple and inexpensive way of dissipating the force of wild Atlantic breakers, and at the same time restoring the sandy beach which flanks the resort for the beach for the mining communities at the turn of the century.

The second of Portcawl's two vertical sea walls, which was built in 1934, was in danger of collapse, to sea than a 1966 wall which itself had been liable to fall down. Waves lifting the second wall were higher because it stood further below high water mark. The beach was practically clear of sand and the effect of the waves dashing pebbles against it was undermining the wall.

The council acted on the unit's recommended solution and built a revetment, or sloping bank of stone, with bitumen concrete poured into the gaps. The bank rises from a 35 metres out from the base of the wall, on a one in six incline, to a flatish top six metres up the original 8.5 metre high wall. The revetment runs 210 metres along the existing wall.

The waves at Portcawl have behaved just as the unit predicted they would. Once their scouring action had been arrested, the pebbles were covered with 25,000 tonnes of sand, dredged from a bank a few miles out in the Bristol Channel. The sand was evenly out and flattened by the tide. The unit believes the altered wave action will throw up more sand from the Bristol Channel, making a very much bigger beach in the future.

The whole work was completed in three months, at a cost of £560,000, part funded by the council and the Welsh Office.

Portcawl is the first beach in Britain to be reinstated using the latest revetment procedure. A second revetment was planned for a further 100 metres, successful demonstrations of the technique is at Flushing in Holland.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Confident NatWest goes pioneering in the US

Having established an investment banking framework in London around County Bank, National Westminster is now making its initial push into the securities market in the United States. It has applied for permission from the Federal Reserve Board to set up an institutional securities brokerage firm combining research, investment advice and execution facilities.

The application cuts across one of the more Byzantine features of US banking legislation. Some of the big deposit-taking commercial banks in the US already provide these services in the securities field but only through separate subsidiaries. NatWest appears to be the first bank to seek permission to combine these services in a single subsidiary.

It is reasonably confident of success, since permission would not allow a commercial bank to do anything new. A new subsidiary, County Securities Corporation, has been set up, and providing permission is granted early next year, about £20 million of capital has been earmarked to get the business under way.

US banking legislation in the form of the Glass-Steagall Act will still, however, stand as a significant obstacle to NatWest and other commercial banks with global investment banking ambitions. The long-established separation of commercial and investment banking means that the likes of NatWest cannot underwrite or act as principals in the equity securities market unless the rules are changed. This will inevitably limit the service they can provide to institutional clients.

There are similar problems in Japan, the other big market along with London and New York in which all aspiring global investment banks wish to be established. NatWest has a full banking licence in Japan and this has apparently hampered or delayed attempts by County Bank to gain a securities licence in the Tokyo market. However, the omens on this score are now said to be looking rather brighter.

In contrast to the NatWest/County bank approach, Barclays is making its international securities push through de Zoete & Bevan, the stockbroker which makes up part of Barclays de Zoete Wedd. De Zoete is setting up a representative office in Tokyo and applying for a securities licence, and is in the process of establishing a New York office. However, there is always the possibility of Barclays making an acquisition in New York.

Hanson right on target

Lord Hanson has chosen well in his latest takeover target, the New York-based SCM Corporation for which he launched a \$75 million (£54.3 million) offer late on Wednesday night. After his company's recent £519 million rights issue, which flopped badly, he could not have afforded to foist a second disappointment on the City with a poorly judged acquisition.

As it happens, SCM is vintage Hanson takeover material as well as being the biggest company Hanson has yet attempted to take on. It has a good spread of businesses in basic human need industries, many of which are underperforming. Its record has been indifferent and it is about mid-way through a restructuring and investment programme that should significantly enhance its profitability.

Hanson has identified a minimum of 15 businesses in the group which it thinks capable of standing alone and competing in their particular markets. These range from the well known Smith-Corona Typewriters, through Glidden Paints, the second biggest paint business in the US, to Durkee Spices, number two in the spice distribution trade in the US.

They are all the type of dull low-tech businesses that Hanson excels in and has a particular skill for revitalizing. But they will also presumably keep Hanson's digestive juices working for some time so the British stock market can, for the time being, forget its favourite guessing game of spotting Hanson's next prey.

Subdued celebrations at British Airways

If the champagne started to flow at British Airways after the last-minute agreement with Sir Freddie Laker, it will have gone horribly flat yesterday morning. In any

case, the chief executive, Colin Marshall, and his colleagues were thinking only in terms of a restrained celebration. They know that the class action brought in America still has to be cleared away. And if the sums involved are not likely to be material, the negotiations could well drag on until the end of the year.

After the ups and downs of the American Grand Jury investigation, the liquidator's anti-trust suit, not to mention Sir Freddie and his possible action with LORH, now removed, there is much to be said for not counting chickens prematurely.

Thoughts, nonetheless, will now be turning to the formulation of an attractive prospectus next spring, and to negotiating with the Government over capital structure. BA's recent record, however impressive does not guarantee it a warm welcome from investors at £1 billion to £1.2 billion. BA will want to offer something different from existing big airline stocks.

Shareholders' funds growing to outweigh debt would help and it will need convincing arguments that profits are not near the peak of the cycle. This fear is to worry investors in American domestic airlines, Singapore Airlines, though not on the same scale, will be a financial competitor for the attentions of international airlines.

This, at least looks a more constructive challenge than those that have preoccupied BA's advisers of late. Sir Freddie, meanwhile, has \$8 million and it is understood, flew across the Atlantic yesterday morning to avoid too close questioning on what he intends to do with it. And who can blame him?

Lies, damned lies, and statistics...

For connoisseurs of government statistics, the publication of a new volume of *Sources and Methods* for the national accounts is quite an occasion. The last one was published 17 years ago.

The book contains frank admissions of the tricks used by statisticians in arriving at numbers which are still, by and large, taken at face value. For example, it is arbitrarily assumed that 2 per cent of all beer drunk in Britain is charged to company accounts and so does not count as part of consumer spending. The proportion for wines and spirits is assumed to be 8 per cent.

The statisticians have their own grading system for the accuracy of official figures. An A grade means that the figure is probably within 3 per cent of being right, B that it is probably 3 to 10 per cent out, C that it is likely to be 10 to 20 per cent off beam and D more than 20 per cent away from the truth.

The holes in the national accounts thus range from slightly grey to very black indeed. Payments by owner-occupiers to decorators, plumbers and builders, the heart of the black economy receive a definite D ranking in the statistics. The statisticians are rather more certain of their estimates for self-employment income as a whole, reckoning that it is 3 to 10 per cent out (presumably, below) the right figure.

What is surprising is the inaccuracy of official figures on the company sector. Industrial and commercial company profits for the past few years can be regarded as within only 10 to 20 per cent of the correct figure. Financial companies and institutions have always been in this 'C' category. The same is true for stock appreciation and rent, with some interest payments and payments to charities.

This, with unreliable estimates of company income from abroad helps explain the huge - £9.9 billion - balancing item in aggregate company accounts last year. The book contains a table of government write-offs and of public corporations' debt. Since 1951 these have totalled £9 billion. Half of this, with the calculation inevitably distorted by the effects of inflation, has occurred under the present government.

United Kingdom National Accounts, Sources and Methods (third edition) is published by the Central Statistical Office, and is available from HMSO at £14.95.

Sterling boosted by fresh blow to American recovery hopes

By David Smith and Mohsin Ali

The evidence of the weakness of the American economy hit the dollar yesterday, and helped the pound to a strong gain. Durable goods orders fell last month, it was announced in Washington, casting doubts on the officially predicted second-half recovery.

The pound gained 1.63 cents to \$1.4073, having risen briefly above \$1.41 yesterday afternoon. Later in New York, it was quoted at \$1.4072.

The sterling index rose 0.7 to 82.4 as the pound registered small gains against most currencies. The dollar dipped nearly four pence to DM2.7405.

The dollar's fall was based on disappointment with the durable goods figures. New orders received by durable goods manufacturers, an important leading indicator of economic activity in the United States, fell by 2.8 per cent last month, after rising in the three previous months, the Commerce Department announced.

Dealers said that expectations of an early recovery rate cut by the Federal Reserve Board had been revived, and further evidence of economic weakness

was likely to force the authorities to cut interest rates. In addition, the dollar's recovery in response to the upward revision of a 1984 quarter gross national product, earlier this week, soon petered out.

The US Labour Department, in a separate report, said that inflation remained under control in July with consumer prices rising a modest 0.2 per cent.

Although most experts had expected a decline in durable goods orders they said that the size of the fall was a surprise. It was the latest in a series of disappointing reports which indicate that the American economy is not yet rebounding from its sluggish first-half performance.

The July decline in orders for durable goods, including items such as cars, furniture and home appliances, came after an

advance of 3.6 per cent in June. It was the first monthly decline since March, when orders fell 2.9 per cent.

The drop was mainly due to a steep decline in orders for defence goods, a volatile category that rose sharply in June. But orders fell in most other categories as well.

The July rise in the consumer price index followed an identical 0.2 per cent gain in June. This was in line with expectations. During the first seven months of this year prices, as measured by the consumer price index, have risen at an annualized rate of 3.5 per cent.

The White House has been predicting that the economy will grow at a 5 per cent annual rate in the second half, after a feeble 1.1 per cent annualized rise in the first six months. But many private analysts say that is far too optimistic.

Britain's high interest rates continue to make the pound an attractive bet. Yesterday, with day-to-day money in short supply, conditions in the money markets were tight. The three-month interbank rate was steady at 12½-13½ per cent.

Current account surplus revised up by £300m

The official estimate of Britain's balance of payments surplus last year has been revised up by £300 million. The annual balance of payments "black book" records a 1984 current account surplus of £933 million, compared with an earlier estimate of £624 million.

The surplus on invisibles is nearly £200 million better than originally estimated, at £5,036 million, while the visible trade deficit has been revised down to £4,101 million.

There was a sharp rise in Britain's income from overseas investments last year. The surplus on interest, profit and dividends rose from £2.4 billion in 1983 to £3.3 billion last year, reflecting the rapid build up of overseas assets since the abolition of exchange controls in 1979.

Horizon offsets £3.6m trade loss with aircraft sales

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Horizon Travel, Britain's third largest package holidays operator, plunged into operating losses of £3.6 million in its first half to the end of May, and yesterday signalled a "slugging war" policy in the present holidays price war, which is bound to affect profit margins.

Only aircraft sales allowed Horizon to post a £10.7 million interim pretax profit compared with a £900,000 loss last time. Nearly £14 million was raised by the aircraft sales. Horizon's Orion airline now has nine aircraft, five of them fully owned and the rest leased.

First half turnover was down 16 per cent to £45.6 million. The operating loss was blamed on sterling depreciation and the effect of competition on volume and margins.

The decline in this summer's package holidays market, not expected to be fully offset by the late booking rush, will reduce



Bruce Tanner: "we will match price for price"

Horizon's operating results for the full year, the company said. Horizon's market share has dropped to about 6 per cent this summer from its peak of 8 per cent, said Mr Bruce Tanner, group chairman. Thomson had around 20 per cent of the market and Inntas, after acquisitions, about 15 per cent. Cosmos, once the third largest

operator, had dropped back. Announcing a tough line on competitive pricing in a big switch in marketing strategy, Mr Tanner said: "We are taking the gloves off. We will be matching price for price: if we are more expensive then we will take action to put that right."

He accused Thomson "and particularly Inntas" of being "intent on increasing their volume and market share with little regard for margins."

But he claimed: "We are in a stronger position financially than our competitors to slug it out."

He predicted a stronger summer market next year. Spanish prices were likely to be at this summer's brochure level or lower. Strong sterling and holidaymakers' reaction to this year's poor British weather were likely to be other factors.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 0.88p. Horizon's ordinary shares were marked down 3p to 108p.

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Saxon price discount 'too great'

By Ian Griffiths

The leader of Saxon's Oil's rebel directors, Mr John Heaney, the company's chief executive, has written to shareholders explaining his reasons for opposing the proposed merger of Saxon with Charterhouse Petroleum.

He tells shareholders that the main reason for opposing the Enterprise offer is that: "The cash price is at too great a discount to the real value of the company's assets."

Mr Heaney's decision to send out his letter to shareholders before the formal offer document from Enterprise is dispatched is being interpreted as an attempt to generate support for the proposed merger of Saxon with Charterhouse Petroleum.

The terms of that merger were agreed and recommended by the boards of both companies last month before news of Enterprise's interest in Saxon emerged.

The Enterprise bid for Saxon has put the future of the merger into doubt. However, nearly 80 per cent of Charterhouse shareholders have given their acceptance to the merger and 36.4 per cent of Saxon shareholders have done so.

Mr Heaney tells shareholders that he does not believe that the two options for Saxon can be readily compared. He accepts that the ultimate decision will depend on the shareholders' wishes.

Yesterday, Enterprise bought further Saxon shares in the market to bring its stake to 17.07 per cent.

'New information' halts Milbury court hearing

By Jeremy Warner

A shareholder's High Court bid to force a government investigation into the affairs of Milbury, the housebuilding group whose chairman, Mr Jim Raper, was once described by the Takeover Panel as unfit to be a director of a public company, was adjourned yesterday when new information emerged about the company.

Mr Christopher Whitney, the Milbury shareholder who brought the court action, requested the adjournment because he had learned of moves by St Piran, Mr Raper's main British company, to sell its controlling 78.7 per cent stake in Milbury.

Mr Whitney told Mr Justice Scott that a director of Poco, a Manchester construction group, had telephoned him to say Poco had bought St Piran's shareholding in Milbury. St Piran's shareholding in Milbury was 25 per cent.

The sale did not include Westminster Property Group or Milbury Homes South, Milbury's two principal assets. Mr Whitney said: "According to the latest accounts, the net asset value of St Piran's stake was £9.75 million."

Mr Whitney said he was later telephoned by the chairman of Heart of England Homes who said he had signed a conditional contract with St Piran to buy the stake at 50p a share.

A further agreement was reached with St Piran on August 13 to buy the shares for 2p each. Acceptance of the deal was telephoned the following day but when the solicitors arrived, they were told the deal was off. Mr Whitney said.

Miss Elisabeth Glosier, counsel for the Department of Trade and Industry, said it was desirable that the application for the appointment of inspectors should be heard as soon as possible "if steps are to be taken to restore assets which seem to have disappeared."

The hearing continues today.

Bank's 'change in tactics'

By Christopher Dunn

The Bank of England conducted its first major change in its money market dealing tactics, yesterday, according to traders by providing late assistance to the discount houses for the fourth trading session running.

Lat assistance, in practice, means that the Bank provides the discount houses with liquidities to help them to square their books. Yesterday's late assistance totalled nearly £500 million, compared with a shortage in the money markets of some £1.2 billion.

The cost of help provided in this form is far more onerous than the usual sale and repurchase facilities on offer. Traders are convinced that the Bank's new tactics are an attempt to reduce the size of the bill mountain by curbing the houses' trading activities via higher rates.

Traders also talked of the ambivalence of the Bank's new tactics, since the whiff of lower base rates has pushed most markets in London ahead so far this week.

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IN BRIEF

Singapore opportunity

Investors in London, New York and Tokyo will be given an opportunity to buy into Singapore Airlines when it is privatized in November, Mr Lim Chin Beng, the airline's deputy chairman, said yesterday.

He confirmed the Singapore government's plans to float the airline and said SIA would be listed only in Singapore, although shares would be available through private placing in the world's three leading financial centres.

It was not clear what proportion would be available for sale to foreign investors, nor at what price.

The airline profits after tax of just under £48.5 million in 1984-85, up 18 per cent over the previous year. Revenue passed the billion-pound mark for the first time while staff numbers fell and productivity rose more than 10 per cent.

THF resignation

Mr Giuseppe Pecorelli, former managing director of Truohouse Forte's hotels division, is to leave the group next week. Mr Rocco Forte, the chief executive, said yesterday that he was sorry to lose Mr Pecorelli, but he had not been actively involved in running operations since February last year.

£6m Stone deal

Stone International yesterday announced a £6 million deal to buy 75 per cent of Andrews, a private company specializing in heating, drying and air conditioning equipment. It is the third acquisition this year for Stone, which is paying £1 million in loan stock and the rest in shares.

Hudson buy-out

Hudson Petroleum Corporation, based in Oklahoma City, is buying out the minority shareholding in Hudson Petroleum International, the USM company. HPI already own 75.8 per cent of HPI.

Garfunkels Restaurants reported pretax profit up from £700,000 to £1.2 million at the interim stage on turnover up from £7.6 million to £9.9 million. Interim dividend is maintained at 0.215p.

No referral

The proposed merger between Matthew Hall and IDC will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The takeover of Scottish Northern Investment Trust by Throgmorton Trust and the acquisition by Trafalgar House of a 29.9 per cent stake in John Brown have also been cleared.

Hawley offer

Hawley is offering one share for two Kean and Scott Holdings shares in an agreed bid to buy out Kean. 17.52 per cent of Kean and Scott is not already owned. The offer does not apply to restricted shares representing 7.45 per cent of Kean's issued capital.

£250m credit

Barclays Merchant Bank has completed a £250 million credit facility for Club 24, a subsidiary of J. Hepworth. Club 24 provides consumer credit facilities for big retailers.

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COMPANY NEWS

● **WILLIAM RANSON & SONS.** The chairman, Mr Michael Ranson, says in his annual statement that the current year has started well, with a significant growth of turnover. He is confident that the results for 1985-86 will show a further worthwhile expansion.

● **FIVE OAKS INVESTMENTS.** Following comment concerning its profits, the company forecasts that profit, before tax, for the year to June 30 last is expected to be about £450,000. This figure is subject to the resolution of some outstanding matters concerning the recent development in Wales let to famous and subject to audit.

● **C. H. INDUSTRIALS.** The chairman, Mr Tim Healey, says in his annual report that the current year has started satisfactorily and, on current indications, the board expects a significant increase in the level of business in the industrial operations. "In the absence of unforeseen factors, we expect the year to show further progress in the current year."

● **UNITTECH.** The chairman, Mr P. A. M. Curry, says in his annual statement that orders and sales for the first two months of the current

year are ahead of last year. The supply of electronic components is in surplus, so, compared with Unitech's rapid expansion in the last two years, the board expects, at best, only modest growth during the current year.

● **DWEK GROUP.** Dwek International has disposed of its moped division to Tomos Nederland for £104,000, representing stocks at cost. In addition, Dwek will receive a royalty from Tomos over a three-year period, based on sales.

● **NUMBERSIDE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS.** Dividend 0.1p (nil) for the year to May 31. Figures in 2000. Turnover, 863 (£93). Gross profit, 434 (£276).

● **MISS WORLD GROUP.** Half year to June 30. Interim 1.3p (1.1p). Turnover, £382,200 (£348,800). Profit, before tax, £153,300 (£141,900).

● **DALE ELECTRIC INTERNATIONAL.** Final 3p, making 4.5p (same) for the year to April 26. Figures in 2000. Turnover, 36,102 (£164).

● **SELTRUST.** At the reconvened general meeting of Seltrust Holdings, 99.12 per cent of voting

shareholders representing 99.8 per cent of votes shares voted in favour of modifications to the Scheme of Arrangement proposed by the liquidators. This will enable the liquidators to seek approval of the Supreme Court of Western Australia to the scheme and for it to be effective in mid-September, when shares and options in Paragon Resources will be listed.

● **SCOTTISH AND NEWCASTLE BREWERIES.** The annual meeting was held at the current year has got off to a good start and the board remains confident about the future.

● **TRANSCONTINENTAL SERVICES GROUP.** The resolution approving the repurchase facility of issue of new shares was passed at an extraordinary meeting.

● **ST REGIS.** The directors of St Regis Holdings have completed the management buy-out of St Regis International Corporation. A total of £32 million has been raised to fund the buy-out.

● **HORNE BROTHERS.** Results for 24 weeks to Feb 16. Figures in 2000. Turnover (Val exclusive) 8,359 (£7,516). Pre-tax loss, 173 (£loss, 519).

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	587.4 (-0.8)
FT All Share	633.95 (-1.26)
FT Gov Securities	83.68 (+0.22)
FT-SE 100	1,309.7 (-4.2)
Bargains	21.77
Dataseam USM	104.33 (+0.16)
New York Dow Jones	1326.50 (-3.03)
Tokyo Nikkei Dow	12,734.05 (+29.24)
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1,671.87 (+21.09)
Amsterdam	218.2 (+0.7)
Sydney AO	953.9 (-2.0)
Frankfurt	338.08 (+8.16)
Brussels	1426.6 (+10.1)
General	338.08 (+8.16)
Paris CAC	217.4 (+0.2)
Zurich	403.10 (+1.90)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$37.60-pm \$36.50
close \$335.75-\$336.25	(238.75)
New York	Comex (Latest) \$336.00

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Select TV	8p +1p
DBE Technology	43p +5p
Kean & Scott	37p +4p
Ruddle (G.)	145p +14p
Allied Textile	453p +40p
Good Relations	225p +17p
Squared Horn	23p +1p
Berford S. & W.	175p +15p
Powerline Int	158p +10p
Amstrad Csm Elk	38p +6p
Weeks Associates	17p +1p
Vosper	222p +12p
French Connect	280p +15p
Triplex Fndres	56p +3p
Doin Holdings	78p +4p
Rexmora	19.50p +1p
Aitken Hum Int	158p +8p
Palma Group	38p +2p
Atlantic Comp	295p +20p
Steel Burill	404p +20p
Stoddard Hds "A"	10.60p +0.50p
Sims Cater Btch	158p +7p
Ingram (Barcl)	115p +5p
Rains Inds	138p +6p
Suter	138p +6p
FALLS:	
Hudson Pet Int	

Dow rally falters

New York (Reuters) - The stock market turned mixed at midday yesterday, apparently finding it difficult to keep a rally going into the third day.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 3.70 points to 1,325.830. Advances had a narrow lead over declines on turnover of 78.29 million shares.

Pan Am led the actives, up 1/4 to 8 1/2. A block of 500,000 shares crossed the tape at 8 1/2.

Jack Eckerd Corp. was up four to 30 1/2. The company said on Wednesday that it was considering a sale or merger.

Union Carbide was up two to 54 in heavy trading.

Worthern Banking Corp. said in Washington that the Securities and Exchange Commission has begun an informal investigation into the accuracy or adequacy of disclosures of its transactions with affiliates, officers, directors and principal shareholders.

The company said in a routine financial report filed with the commission that it learned of the informal SEC probe on July 13.

Worthern also disclosed that three of its subsidiary banks had entered into formal agreements with the comptroller of the currency requiring, among other things, specific compliance with guidelines governing asset quality and management.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

The high cost of day-to-day money and the backwash on the short dates, especially seven-day money, was the outstanding feature yesterday.

Money held at an expensive 12 1/2-7 1/2 per cent through out the morning, firming to 13-12 1/2 per cent at about mid-afternoon then eased at the close to 11 1/2-11 per cent in unexpectedly easy conditions for the last few minutes of the day.

Base Rates %
 Clearing Bank 11 1/2
 Finance House 12 1/2
 Discount Market Loans %
 Overnight High 12 1/2 Low 11 1/2
 Week End 11 1/2
 Treasury Bills (Discount) %
 3 months 11 1/2 3 months 10 1/2
 6 months 11 1/2 6 months 10 1/2
 Prime Bank Bills (Discount) %
 1 month 11 1/2 1 month 10 1/2
 3 months 11 1/2 3 months 10 1/2
 Trade Bills (Discount) %
 1 month 11 1/2 1 month 10 1/2
 3 months 11 1/2 3 months 10 1/2
 Interbank %
 Overnight 12 1/2-7 1/2 close 11 1/2-11
 1 week 12 1/2-7 1/2 close 11 1/2-11
 1 month 11 1/2-11 1 month 10 1/2-10 1/2
 3 months 11 1/2-11 3 months 10 1/2-10 1/2
 Local Authority Deposits %
 3 months 11 1/2 3 months 11
 6 months 11 1/2 6 months 10 1/2

COMMODITIES

Cocoa futures showed gains of £16 a tonne, following a sharply higher New York close. The market continued to derive background support from concern over pod rot disease in Brazil. Robusta coffee futures fell by up to £14 a tonne as mixed trade-buying support met strong downward pressure.

STERLING'S FIRMER TREND LED TO METALS BEING EASIER ACROSS THE BOARD, WITH NICKEL DOWN £95 AFTER THE TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE ONTARIO STRIKE.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar came under heavy selling pressure in a quiet market yesterday, even before the latest set of disappointing figures on the US economy.

By the close, the dollar had lost about 1/4 cent to 1.4073 against the pound, at 1.4073, against 1.3910 at the previous close.

Dealers said that selling of dollars had started overnight, in both New York and the Far East, on continuing uncertainty over the US economy. Sterling's

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates
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TEMPUS

Money markets trump the Old Lady's ace

Traders were waking up yesterday to the fact that the Bank of England's changing dealing tactics in the money markets broadly set the Old Lady on a collision course over interest rate policy with the Treasury. Oh dear, sighed the traders, they have fallen out again.

The bone of contention remains the bill mounting now worth around £17 billion. Broadly, the bill mountain represents the hidden volume of credit in the economy, whose true cost has been kept down by the Bank of England's operations in the money markets.

This has been done partly through the sale and repurchase facilities extended by the authorities to the discount houses since time immemorial, which in turn means that the total volume of credit is constantly rolled over.

This arrangement suited the houses very well, given the backward slope of the yield curve. The Bank held the bills, guaranteeing the running yield on them, while the Chancellor's rate-cutting policies ensured the capital uplift on the paper.

So far this week, the Bank has opted for a different approach. Faced with massive money market shortages - yesterday's totalled £1.2 billion - the authorities have refused to offer sale and repurchase facilities, providing instead "late assistance".

In practice, this means that the Bank has been lending to individual houses, at a stiff rate, in order to discourage trading in so many bills. The higher cost of borrowing, for the houses, replaces the cheaper sale and repurchase facilities. Discount rates, as a result, have been rising this week, and one-month inter-bank rates have been impressively firm at around 12 per cent. Some claim on this basis that base rates should rise, not fall.

Yet the house, undeterred by the Bank's changed tactics, have been forced to borrow very heavily. Plainly they believe that moves to lower rates will still transpire. The Bank, caught between the Chancellor's avowed desire for cheaper money and the houses' squealing, may hence find it expedient to move to a more accommodative stance.

The gilt market plainly believes this too. Shorts were firm yesterday, putting on no less than 1/4 point, as the belief strengthened that rate cuts were just around the corner.

Greenwich Resources/Gold

Greenwich Resources could be lucky. It is the first gold exploration company to join the London stock market for years and its arrival neatly coincides with the publication yesterday of a huge and bullish tome of gold from Laing & Cruckshank, the stockbroker.

This could send trading in the shares off to a better start next Thursday the first dealing day, than might otherwise have been expected, given the poor state of the gold market since unrest spread in South Africa.

Laing & Cruckshank believes that South African gold shares are oversold and it particularly favours Hartbeestfontein, but it is more enthusiastic about North American stocks, especially those working in the Hemlo field. It says Sonoma, where a Laing & Cruckshank partner, Mr Tim Wright, is a director, is the cheapest gold share in the world. He forecasts a rise in the gold price from the present level of \$337 an ounce to \$400 before the end of the year.

The broker's study does not take in Greenwich Resources. Greenwich is unusual in concentrating on the Sudan,

Venezuela, Egypt and Canada rather than better known areas such as South Africa and Australia.

Greenwich is receiving a London listing and at the same time raising £5 million in a three-for-five rights issue, having previously been traded in Canada. Most of the money being raised will be used to develop the Gebelt mine in Sudan, possibly the oldest gold mine in the world.

With little recent experience of new gold companies investors may find Greenwich difficult to value, especially as the introduction document offers little guidance. Using what information is included suggests the Gebelt assets are worth about £14 million.

A 27 per cent shareholding in Canadian company has a market value of a further £3 million but the other interests including unproven reserves at Gebelt must be valued subjectively, if at all, at this stage.

On the worst case, taking only proven Gebelt gold and the Canadian investment, Greenwich's assets are worth at least £17 million. That opens up a likely market value of £24 million, assuming the shares trade at the ex-rights price.

The downside therefore looks limited and with Grieverson Grant, broker to the issue, claiming the assets are worth £33.5 million, the upside is attractive. Prospects are improved by Laing & Cruckshank's timely contribution.

Horizon Travel

Unregistered cartels are illegal. This is a pity as far as Horizon Travel and its competitors in the package holiday business are concerned. There is no doubt that what the big boys need at this unfortunate stage in their lives is the chance to gang up against the small operators who have proved such a painful thorn in their collective sides.

Rather than fight the minnows, Horizon has been forced to pick on somebody its own size. After a period of mild-mannered pricing and less-than-forceful marketing, Horizon has decided to take on the likes of Thomson and Tui, and watch them pound for pound in what promises to be a bitter price war.

With cash of £29 million in hand, Horizon looks well equipped to fight a pitched battle. There is certainly a new air of determination about the company.

The company is also prepared to look to the long term. There is no question of it cutting costs in the short term to gain an unsustainable advantage. The aircraft fleet has been reduced but only from 11 to nine planes.

Only the sale of two aircraft allowed Horizon to record a profit in the half year to May 31. At the operating level the company's losses increased from £930,318 to £3.6 million. The combination of a £13.7 million profit on aircraft sales and some currency gains allowed the company to report pre-tax profits of £10.7 million.

In the second half, the company's operating results will again be pretty dismal. A more important objective at this stage will be to recoup some lost market share. The more aggressive marketing approach might help but the Horizon story is very much one of the long term.

Given the intense competition in the market and the continued overcapacity of charter flight seats, there is no reason to support the view that recovery will come in 1986. Horizon shares should only be held for recovery but a better bet may be to sell and invest the proceeds in a cheap holiday.

APPOINTMENTS

Confederation of British Industry: Mr John Nisbet has been made director of the Information Technology Skills Agency. He remains director of the CBI Education Foundation and the Understanding British Industry project.

Ranks Hovis McDougall Ingredient Suppliers: Mr Mike Donoghue becomes sales director. He succeeds Mr Mike Seddon.

Mr Peter Barry has been made director in charge of production, distribution, engineering and purchasing.

HFC Trust & Savings: Mr Geoff Jones has been appointed vice-president and director of planning and corporate development. Mr Colin Fryer has been made assistant vice-president, marketing and advertising manager.

National Westminster Bank: Mr Don Goodman has been appointed senior executive in charge of subsidiaries and affiliates of the international banking division.

Charter Services: Mr Stewart Durr has been made deputy chairman and managing director.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price
ATA Selections 5p Ord (500)	83-2
Aberdeen Bank Shares 20 Ord (675)	184-2
Blackrock Group 20 Ord (170)	123-1
Bristol 10p Ord (185) 20p	123-1
C F A Galleries 10p Ord (200)	87
Canon Street Inv 20p Ord (100)	123
Castle Technology 10p Ord (115)	123
Dean Park Hills 25p Ord (214)	20
F K A Group 10p Ord (140)	115
First Security 10p Ord (100)	85
Goodland Print 20p Ord (200)	98-3
Green Property 10p Ord (75)	100-3
Levens 10p Ord (100)	86
Lowmood Petroleum 20 Ord (100)	102
Michael J. Design 2.5 Ord (400)	80
Midco 10p Ord (100)	80
More Advertising 20 Ord (100)	74
Noodle Inv Trust 10p Ord (100)	74
Perimeter Holdings 20 Ord (100)	110
Scotch Petroleum 20 Ord (100)	110
Tipton 10p Ord (100)	104
Yellow Hammer 5p Ord (1100)	131
Highgate	400m
Brown (Globe) (25) NS Pd	450m-1
Tottenham (25) NS Pd	274-4
Hemmo 10p (185) Pd Pd	200m
North City NS Pd	200m

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	11 1/2%
Adam & Company	11 1/2%
Barrage	11 1/2%
BCCI	11 1/2%
Citibank Savings	11 1/2%
Consolidated Cds	11 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Midland Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

Australian battle lifts Allied-Lyons to peak

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

The takeover battle for Castlemeine-Toothys, the Australian brewing group, sent shares of Allied-Lyons, best known for its Skol lager, surging to a peak on the stock market yesterday.

As Castlemeine disclosed that it was having talks with a new, unidentified, bidder, Allied's shares jumped 6p to 234p before settling at 234p.

One suggestion was that Allied itself, which already has nearly 24 per cent of Castlemeine, was preparing to bid, but under Australian takeover regulations Allied would not, without special dispensation, be allowed to increase its shareholding to more than 50 per cent.

Castlemeine is resisting a takeover offer from the Bond Corporation which owns Australia's Swan Brewery. The new bid, if it should materialize and there is some doubt that it will, is signalled to value Allied's existing Castlemeine stake at £150 million.

Meanwhile Elders, which

controls Australia's biggest brewery, is still thought to be buying Allied's shares. It is believed to be near to achieving a 5 per cent shareholding and has said it intends to build up to 10 per cent.

The Allied share performance helped to limit a downturn by the FT 30-share index to 0.8 points at 987.4 points. Although lower interest rate hopes helped sentiment, the market looked tired as the holiday weekend approached.

The £35 million Hanson Trust bid for the American SCM Corporation left many of its rumoured British bid targets looking like wallflowers at the ball.

Bowater Industries, Imperial Group, Reed International and Thorne EMI all ended a few coppers lower, but Distillers Co. enjoyed a late run, wiping out an earlier 8p fall to close unchanged at 308p. Reports of stake building continue to circulate.

The FT-SE index of 100 shares closed 4.2 points lower at 1,309.7 points. Government stocks scored gains of up to 2 1/2p, helped by the strength of sterling.

Jaguar was unchanged at 277p. Wood, Mackenzie & Co., the broker, has raised its profit forecast by £5 million to £120 million. Such a result would represent a 31 per cent gain.

Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, scored from a favourable broker's circle, gaining 15p to 460p.

S. & W. Berisford, the

commodity group, was another to make headway. It climbed 15p to 175p. Reports that it was about to sell its near 15 per cent shareholding in Ranks Hovis McDougall, the food group, resurfaced. There was also talk of a management buy out at its shaded to 278p despite talk of a bidder appearing soon.

DRG, the packaging and stationery company, pressed ahead a further 2p to 205p, again on bid talk. Banzel, often mentioned as a bidder, jumped 10p to 464p.

Profits of Sims Catering Butchers, which supplies pubs and restaurants, will expand dramatically if it can lift margins at its Bristol Meat Trader acquisition to its own level. Although BMT had sales of £3.7 million in its last year its profit was £129,000. SCB achieved profits of £354,000 from sales of £3.3 million in its last year. Shares SCB rose 7p to 158p yesterday. They were placed on the USM in February at 128p.

British Sugar Corporation offshoot.

Composite insurance shares were weak on a broker's profit downgrade. Guardian Royal Exchange led the decline with a 19p fall to 751p.

Beecham Group slipped 7p to 341p as rumours that it is contemplating a counter offer to Panty Pride's £1,400 million bid for the Revlon cosmetics group circulated.

As the bitter Guinness and Arthur Bell & Sons confrontation drew to its close Bell fell 6p to 258p and Guinness shaded 1p to 272p, but Fleet Holdings, the Express newspaper group which is likely to become the subject of a contested bid, advanced 5p to 342p. United Newspaper, which is preparing a bid, was unchanged at 301p.

The £15 million reported for last year was below most estimates which now centre on £18 million for the present 12 months.

The cut in mortgage rates is beginning to revive interest in the trio of quoted estate agents, Baird & Eves, Connells, and Mann & Co. There is also the added bid element, and the determination of the big banks to grab a bigger slice of the mortgage market.

The planned flotation of the TSB has increased speculation that it might be keen to add to its wide spread of financial services by adding an established firm of estate agents, particularly in the buoyant South-east.

Talk of more agents joining the market is growing. The latest suggestion is Fox and Sons, which operates a chain of 100 offices stretching from Eastbourne to Penzance.

A senior partner said yesterday that it had looked at the possibility of a share quote, among other options.

In the stock market, Baird & Eves went 1p better at 98p, with Connells holding firm at 145p. Mann & Co., the most recent arrival, eased 2p to 188p.

The acquisition of a dental business in the United States continued to keep W. Canning, the Midlands engineering group, in the spotlight, helping the shares up to 98p for a 2p rise on the day. Elsewhere, the shares of Philip Harris, the pharmaceutical suppliers, where W. Canning has acquired a 7.8 per cent stake, edged up 6p to 185p on further speculation that a full bid might be imminent.

The decision by W. H. Smith to open specialist record shops focused attention on Our Price, which has already carved out a profitable niche in the market and has been tipped as a likely takeover target, with Woolworth mentioned as a possibility. Yesterday Our Price shares went 10p better at 615p and W. H. Smith rose 2p to 242p. Elsewhere in the stores sector British Home Stores rose 2p to 284p.

The public relations group Good Relations - strongly tipped as the takeover target of Satchi and Satchi - found

Distillers

Profits increase by 23% Exports reach a record £473 million

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1985	1984
	£m	£m
TURNOVER	1,274.3	1,134.1
TRADING PROFIT	233.2	181.6
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	236.2	191.6
EARNINGS PER SHARE	36.71p	35.35p
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	15.00p	13.65p

Extracts from the Review of Operations in the Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 1985

SALES OF SCOTCH WHISKY

To export markets

The volume of industry shipments rose by 5% on the previous year, but those of the Group decreased by 1.9%, there being some orders which could not be shipped before the end of March. Group profits from this sector rose, however, by 9% due to the strength of the US dollar.

In the USA, neither Group shipments nor depletions quite achieved the level of the previous year, but it is believed that market share was fully maintained. Dewar had a successful year's trading, as did Walker with its Red Label and Black Label brands. Amongst the Group's US bottled Scotch whiskeys, Usher's Green Stripe continued to show encouraging growth.

Group shipments to other major world markets were maintained at last year's level. Trade in Australia, New Zealand and the African Continent improved, while sales to Spain remained at a satisfactory level and those to South America were only slightly down. In Japan some cheap domestic spirits, which receive advantageous tax treatment, have made considerable inroads into the whisky market.

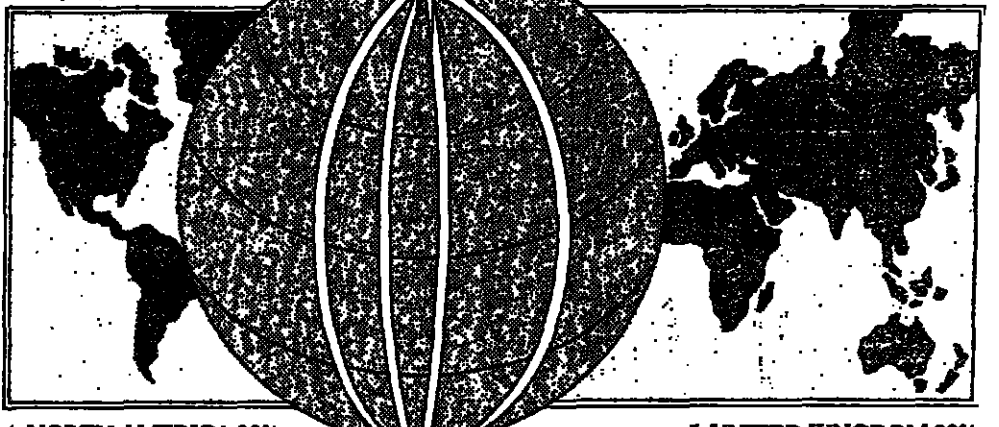
Throughout the Continental EEC Johnnie Walker Red Label maintained a leading position, although the Group showed a small decrease in shipments in the year under review. Industry shipments increased by 7% and the Group thus lost market share in the face of mounting promotional expenditure by competitors - a situation which must be retrieved.

To the home market

The Distillers Company (Home Trade) Limited, set up in April 1984 to market and sell Group brands of Scotch whisky in the UK, is now beginning to achieve its objectives, despite a marginal loss of market share in the year. Sales of Johnnie Walker Red Label are growing steadily, those of White Horse recovered towards the end of the year and The Claymore continued to perform well.

WORLD-WIDE SALES

(analysis of Group turnover excluding duty)



SALES OF WHITE SPIRITS

During the year, the efficient utilisation of the new bottling complex at Basildon materially reduced production costs.

In the UK the overall market for gin decreased but, backed by high-quality media advertising, Gordon's retained its predominant market share.

Exports of Group brands of gin surpassed the performance of the industry which showed only a slight increase. Gordon's shipments were higher with particularly good performances in France, Italy and Japan.

Shipments of Tanqueray Gin to the important markets of the United States and Canada increased substantially and, in the USA, Tanqueray is now the leading brand of imported gin. Tanqueray also did well in the EEC, South America, Australia and Japan.

OVERSEAS OPERATIONS

The profit contribution from Somerset Importers Ltd was in line with that indicated in the Chairman's letter of 21st May 1984 to shareholders, the trading profit being approximately £32 million, giving a net contribution of some £12 million after interest charges.

FOOD GROUP

Against a background of flat demand, strong competition in the bakery and catering industries affected profits adversely. Steps have been and are being taken to improve efficiency and competitiveness.

CARBON DIOXIDE

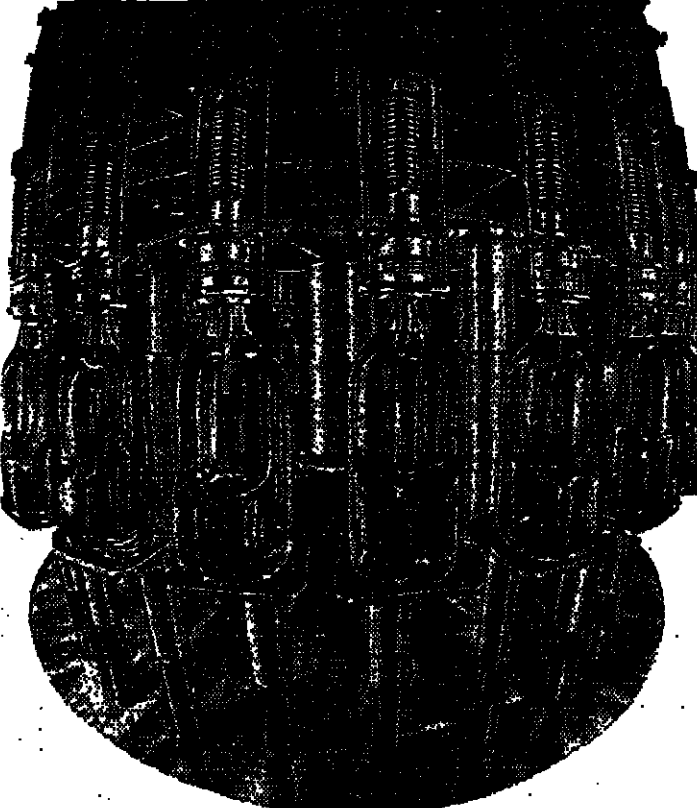
Increased sales in some areas of operation were reflected in a modest improvement in profits.

In his Statement the Chairman, Mr. J. M. Connell, said:

66 The year under review was one in which a number of major rationalisation measures were taken to improve productivity and reduce costs, although not all of these had become fully effective by 31st March.

In my Statement last year, I said that although there were no signs of a significant improvement in the situation prevailing in a number of major markets for Scotch whisky, there were grounds for believing that the worst was behind us. This remains very much the case today, and a modest improvement in prospects has begun to develop in some countries.

The current year, helped to some extent by orders which could not be shipped before the end of March, has started with a strong first quarter in terms of overall sales volume. It is too early yet to be able to give a firm indication of results for the current year as a whole in view of uncertainties such as the fluctuating dollar/sterling rate of exchange, the impact of the FET increase in the USA and other factors beyond our control.99



The Distillers Company plc

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Aug. 12. Dealings End, Aug. 30. \$ Contango Day, Sept. 2. Settlement Day, Sept. 9.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for
+39 points
Claimants should ring 0254-532

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180	Overseas	181	•	18.0	8.8	8.8	8.8
181	Far East	182	•	18.0	8.8	8.8	8.8
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183	Far East	184	•	18.0	8.8	8.8	8.8
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247	61	Abner	173	...	12	22	71	46	19
248	62	Abner	173	...	12	22	71	46	19
249	63	Abner	173	...	12	22	71	46	19
250	64	Abner	173	...	12	22	71	46	19

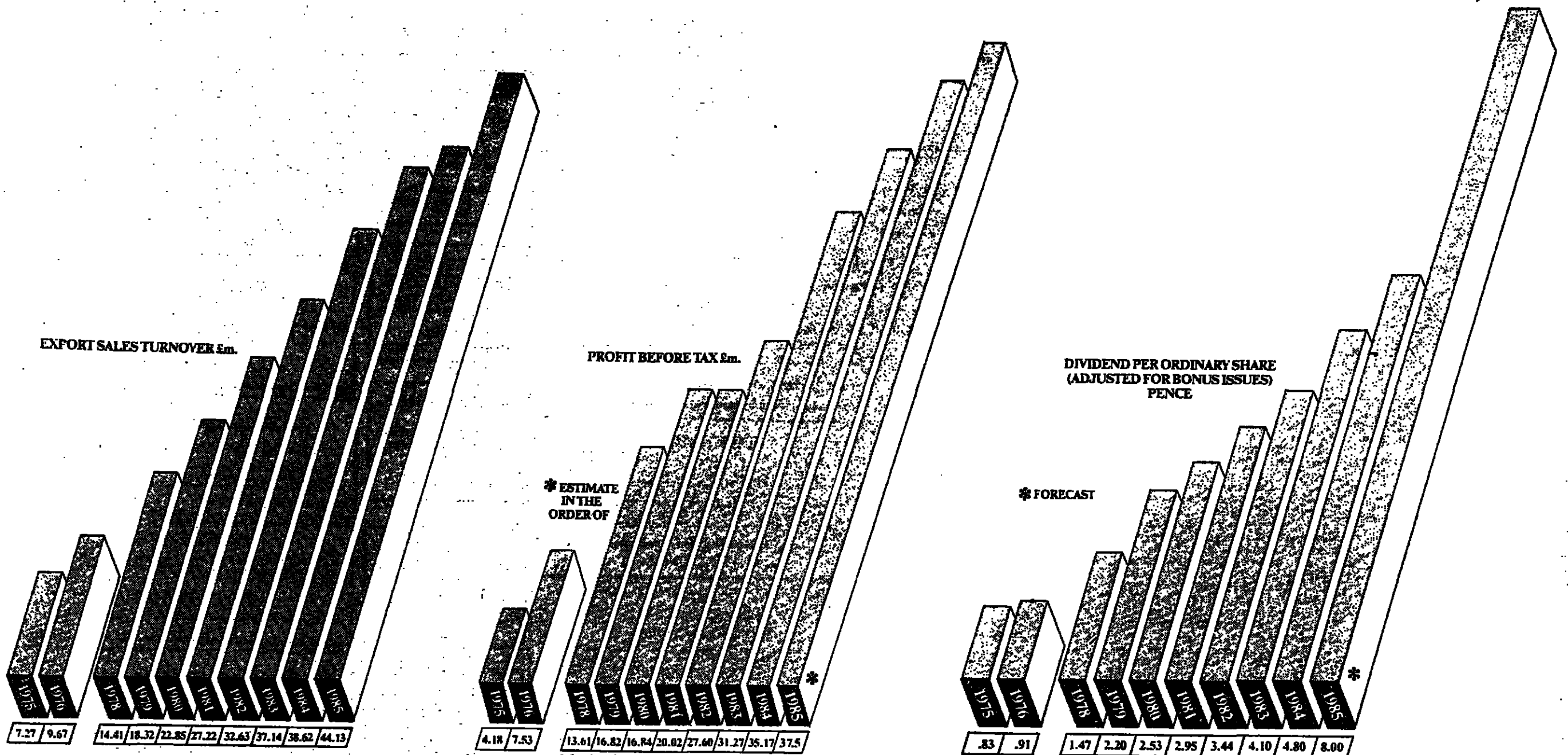
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TOBACCO					
288	BAR	288	-2	14.7	4.8
288	Imperial	121	-7.	12.5	6.2
115	Redman 15'	124	•	8.1	2.4
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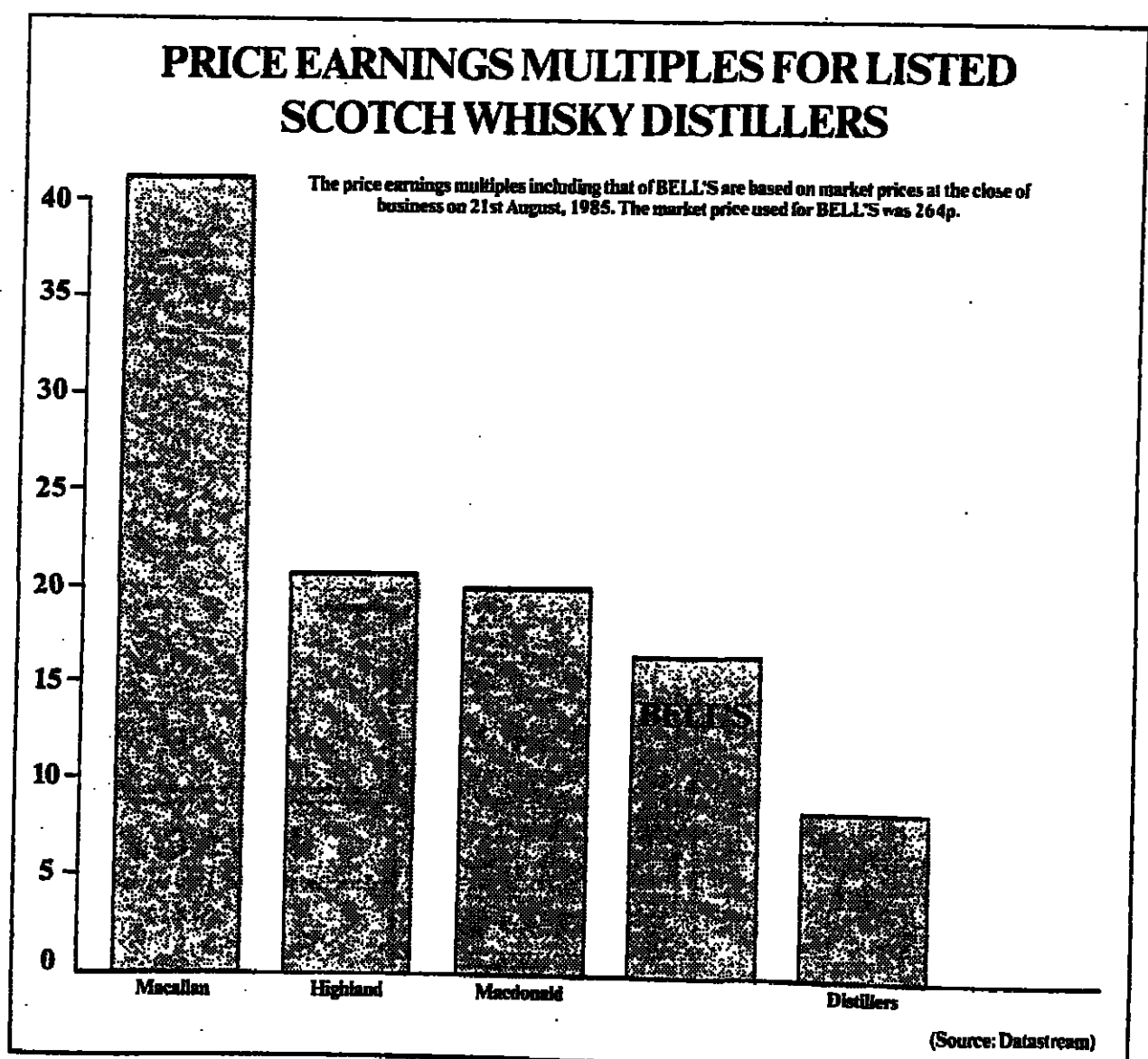
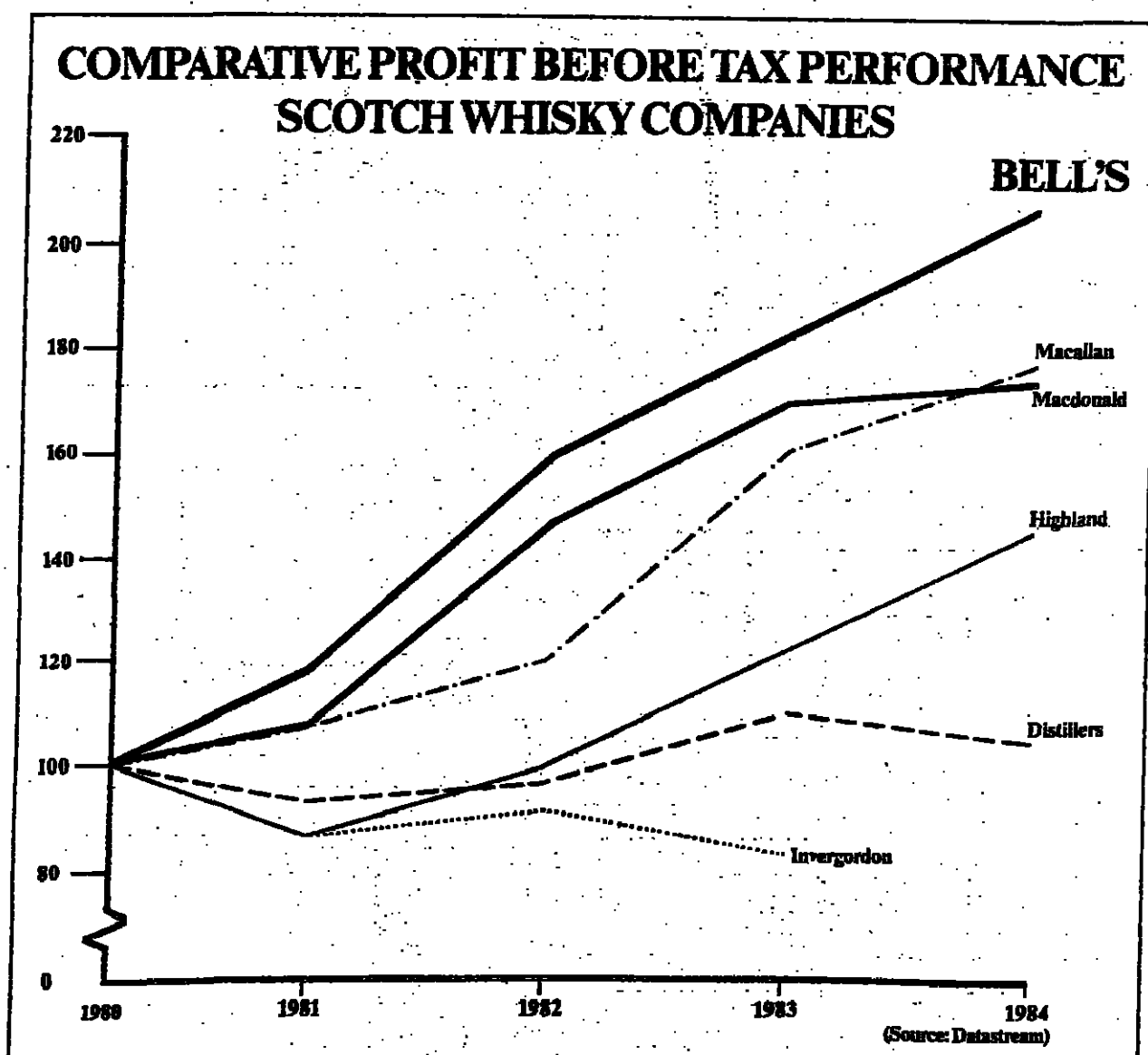
Ex dividend. = Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrupted dividend payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Interest and yield estimate a special payment. h Bid for 100 shares. i Pre-merger earnings. j Post-merger earnings. k Post-merger earnings. l Ex rights. m Ex.

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NOTE: Years 1975 and 1976 are the twelve month periods to 31st December. Years 1978 onwards are the twelve months period to 30th June.

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Figures used by Datastream are drawn from the published accounts of the relevant companies. Profit before tax used in the graph for each calendar year are taken as being those for the financial year ending in that calendar year restated on the basis that figures for 1980 are 100. Price earnings multiples have been calculated by Datastream using the weighted average number of shares in issue and the profit before tax in the latest published accounts and applying the full tax rate applicable to the relevant year. Information on Invergordon for 1984 is not available on the Datastream database and accordingly its price earnings multiple is not included in the above table.

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ATHLETICS: MIDDLE-DISTANCE RUNNERS REFLECT ON A NIGHT OF FAST TIMES

Aouita may move up a distance with even more startling effect

From David Miller, Zurich

The Weltklasse Mobil Grand Prix here on Wednesday night was, as the defeated Sebastian Coe remarked, like an Olympic Games in the space of three hours. Yet if the tactical refinement, style and speed of Mary Slaney and Steve Cram, in their respective defeats of Olympic champions, Marica Puica and Joaquim Cruz, claimed the most auspicious of victories, it was said Aouita, the pencil thin Moroccan, who with Zola Budd produced the most significant indications of future achievement.

Aouita's solo last lap, which took him to within a stride of Cram's new world mile record, follows a world record this year at 5,000 metres and a half's breadth defeat of Cram's 1,500m world record in Nice. Over dinner afterwards the remarkable Aouita revealed an ambition which will astonish even the most sanguine of record planners and breakers.

Aouita, who devises his own training programme by instinct and by analysis of the evidence of each successive training performance or race, has for two years been experimenting in winter training with the possibility of running 10,000 metres. "I believe it could be possible to put together two consecutive 5,000s of 13min 20sec", he says. "Certainly, it is reasonable to look for two times of 13:30".

Even the more modest of those estimates would eclipse by almost 14 seconds the 1984 world record at 10,000m of 27:13.81 by Fernando Mamede of Portugal in Stockholm.

The first estimate is beyond imagination, because only the best 70 or so performances for a single 5,000, are better than 13:20. Yet this little man, with his exceptional power-to-weight ratio and a resting pulse rate of surprisingly no lower than 64, is also convinced he can run 1,500 in 3min 26sec. Cram's record is 3min 29.67sec and a mile in 3min 44sec. He will be 25 this November.

"There was nothing technically wrong with my run tonight", he reflected over a plate of roast beef containing more meat, is seemed, than there is on his own bones. "I missed the record because of my loss of concentration. After three laps, and being then on my own, I was thinking all the way 'world-record, world-record, world-record'."

Ovett ready to switch

Steve Ovett, who holds the world two-mile record, may still run against the triple world record holder Steve Cram in the McVie's Challenge meeting at Crystal Palace on Monday. If they do meet, it will be their first clash since the 1,500 metres final at the Los Angeles Olympic games - and Cram has beaten all the other world-ranked middle distance opposition this year.

Ovett, who has already seen his 1,500 metres world record fall to Cram, has been dogged by blisters, but seems to be on the way back to full fitness. Last weekend he won over 2,000 metres in Norway.

If there are windy conditions at Crystal Palace he may switch from the 1,500 metres to the two miles. John Walker, from New Zealand, has volunteered to act as pacemaker in the two-mile race which could provide Cram with his fourth world record in 41 days.

stopped thinking about running. What I need is more experience in world record attempts, to control my mental condition."

One cannot help wondering whether he might profit from having the more detached advice of a coach. It is, maybe, relevant that in two major races against Cram, in Nice and in the 1983 World Championship in 1,500, he has twice been outwitted by Cram's 'long' finishing burst over 300 metres. The only weapon Aouita does not have is a finishing kick on the last hundred of four laps run at world record schedule.

Yet he is content to continue with two functions in one person. "There are two people in me", he said. "Said the coach and Aouita the runner. Said reacts to the mistakes which Aouita makes. He needs to be intelligent."

Budd: taking the strain

Aouita has made no special psychological studies relevant to his own build. He took his degree in physical education at Rabat, concentrating not on track events but on the whole range of youth development. For his own needs he studied everything from two laps to 25.

"I don't want to be a 'closed' runner. I enjoy change, although probably the 1,500 is the distance which gives me the most pleasure."

If the programme in the 1988 Olympic Games permits it, he will enter both the 1,500 and 5,000. If not, he will attempt the 3,000 and 10,000 double, twice achieved by Viren and which he will also attempt in the 1987 World Championships in Rome. The key to his training is always quality rather than quantity.

RESULTS FROM ZURICH

Men
100 METRES: 1. B. Johnson (CAN), 10.18; 2. C. Smith (USA), 10.19; 3. D. Williams (CAN), 10.26.
200 METRES: 1. B. Johnson (CAN), 20.22; 2. C. Smith (USA), 20.42; 3. D. Williams (CAN), 20.45.
400 METRES: 1. T. Schwanitz (GER), 48.88; 2. M. Puica (ROM), 49.00; 3. D. Williams (CAN), 49.05.
800 METRES: 1. T. Schwanitz (GER), 1:54.28; 2. M. Puica (ROM), 1:54.38; 3. D. Williams (CAN), 1:54.41.
1,500 METRES: 1. P. Delezee (BEL), 3:31.75; 2. S. Ovett (GBR), 3:32.13; 3. J. Ovett (GBR), 3:32.52.
MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 3:46.82 (AFRICAN); 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 3:47.00; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 3:47.05.
2 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 7:35.12; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 7:35.12; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 7:35.12.
4 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 15:10.11; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 15:10.11; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 15:10.11.
8 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 30:20.22; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 30:20.22; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 30:20.22.
12 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 45:30.33; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 45:30.33; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 45:30.33.
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24 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 91:01.06; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 91:01.06; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 91:01.06.
28 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 106:11.17; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 106:11.17; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 106:11.17.
32 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 121:21.28; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 121:21.28; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 121:21.28.
36 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 136:31.39; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 136:31.39; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 136:31.39.
40 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 151:41.50; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 151:41.50; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 151:41.50.
44 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 166:51.61; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 166:51.61; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 166:51.61.
48 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 182:01.72; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 182:01.72; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 182:01.72.
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56 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 212:21.94; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 212:21.94; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 212:21.94.
60 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 227:32.05; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 227:32.05; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 227:32.05.
64 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 242:42.16; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 242:42.16; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 242:42.16.
68 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 257:52.27; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 257:52.27; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 257:52.27.
72 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 273:02.38; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 273:02.38; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 273:02.38.
76 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 288:12.49; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 288:12.49; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 288:12.49.
80 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 303:22.60; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 303:22.60; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 303:22.60.
84 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 318:32.71; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 318:32.71; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 318:32.71.
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112 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 424:43.48; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 424:43.48; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 424:43.48.
116 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 439:53.59; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 439:53.59; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 439:53.59.
120 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 455:03.70; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 455:03.70; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 455:03.70.
124 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 470:13.81; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 470:13.81; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 470:13.81.
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140 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 530:54.25; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 530:54.25; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 530:54.25.
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176 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 667:25.24; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 667:25.24; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 667:25.24.
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228 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 864:36.67; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 864:36.67; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 864:36.67.
232 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 879:46.78; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 879:46.78; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 879:46.78.
236 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 894:56.89; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 894:56.89; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 894:56.89.
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244 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 925:17.11; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 925:17.11; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 925:17.11.
248 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 940:27.22; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 940:27.22; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 940:27.22.
252 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 955:37.33; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 955:37.33; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 955:37.33.
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276 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1046:37.99; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1046:37.99; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1046:37.99.
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304 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1152:48.76; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1152:48.76; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1152:48.76.
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312 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1183:08.98; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1183:08.98; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1183:08.98.
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320 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1213:29.20; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1213:29.20; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1213:29.20.
324 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1228:39.31; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1228:39.31; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1228:39.31.
328 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1243:49.42; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1243:49.42; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1243:49.42.
332 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1258:59.53; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1258:59.53; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1258:59.53.
336 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1274:09.64; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1274:09.64; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1274:09.64.
340 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1289:19.75; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1289:19.75; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1289:19.75.
344 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1304:29.86; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1304:29.86; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1304:29.86.
348 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1319:39.97; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1319:39.97; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1319:39.97.
352 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1334:50.08; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1334:50.08; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1334:50.08.
356 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1349:60.19; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1349:60.19; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1349:60.19.
360 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1364:70.30; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1364:70.30; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1364:70.30.
364 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1379:80.41; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1379:80.41; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1379:80.41.
368 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1394:90.52; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1394:90.52; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1394:90.52.
372 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1410:00.63; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1410:00.63; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1410:00.63.
376 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1425:10.74; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1425:10.74; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1425:10.74.
380 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1440:20.85; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1440:20.85; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1440:20.85.
384 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1455:30.96; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1455:30.96; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1455:30.96.
388 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1470:41.07; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1470:41.07; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1470:41.07.
392 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1485:51.18; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1485:51.18; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1485:51.18.
396 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1501:01.29; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1501:01.29; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1501:01.29.
400 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1516:11.40; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1516:11.40; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1516:11.40.
404 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1531:21.51; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1531:21.51; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1531:21.51.
408 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1546:31.62; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1546:31.62; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1546:31.62.
412 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1561:41.73; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1561:41.73; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1561:41.73.
416 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1576:51.84; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1576:51.84; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1576:51.84.
420 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1592:01.95; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1592:01.95; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1592:01.95.
424 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1607:12.06; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1607:12.06; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1607:12.06.
428 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1622:22.17; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1622:22.17; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1622:22.17.
432 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1637:32.28; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1637:32.28; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1637:32.28.
436 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1652:42.39; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1652:42.39; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1652:42.39.
440 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1667:52.50; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1667:52.50; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1667:52.50.
444 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1683:02.61; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1683:02.61; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1683:02.61.
448 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1698:12.72; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1698:12.72; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1698:12.72.
452 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1713:22.83; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1713:22.83; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1713:22.83.
456 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1728:32.94; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1728:32.94; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1728:32.94.
460 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1743:43.05; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1743:43.05; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1743:43.05.
464 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1758:53.16; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1758:53.16; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1758:53.16.
468 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1774:03.27; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1774:03.27; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1774:03.27.
472 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1789:13.38; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1789:13.38; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1789:13.38.
476 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1804:23.49; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1804:23.49; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1804:23.49.
480 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1819:33.60; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1819:33.60; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1819:33.60.
484 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1834:43.71; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1834:43.71; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1834:43.71.
488 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1849:53.82; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1849:53.82; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1849:53.82.
492 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1865:03.93; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1865:03.93; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1865:03.93.
496 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1880:14.04; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1880:14.04; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1880:14.04.
500 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1895:24.15; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1895:24.15; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1895:24.15.
504 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1910:34.26; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1910:34.26; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1910:34.26.
508 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1925:44.37; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1925:44.37; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1925:44.37.
512 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1940:54.48; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1940:54.48; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1940:54.48.
516 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1956:04.59; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1956:04.59; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1956:04.59.
520 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1971:14.70; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1971:14.70; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1971:14.70.
524 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 1986:24.81; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 1986:24.81; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 1986:24.81.
528 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 2001:34.92; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 2001:34.92; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 2001:34.92.
532 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 2016:45.03; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 2016:45.03; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 2016:45.03.
536 MILE: 1. S. Ovett (GBR), 2031:55.14; 2. J. Ovett (GBR), 2031:55.14; 3. M. Puica (ROM), 2031:55.14.
540 MILE:

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle and Bob Williams

BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax AM.
6.50 Breakfast Time with John Munn and Sally Magnusson. News on the hour and half hour. Pop videos at 7.30. Lynn Faulds Wood with Danger Watch at 8.15. Shopping advice from Glynis Christian. Alan Titchmarsh and gardening queries on 01-81 1089.
9.20 The Pink Panther Show. More pink cartoons (r).
9.40 Huckleberry Finn and His Friends. Huck is mistaken for Tom.
10.05 Heartbeat. Making pictures.
10.25 C-P and Qwikstitch. Steam Radio.
10.30 Play School. Story: Mrs Pip of the Pops by Mike Sullivan.
10.50 News after Noon. 12.7 Regional news. (London and SE: Financial Report and news headlines with sub-titles.)
1.30 The Plumps. A See-Saw programme (r).
1.45 International Show Jumping from Hickstead featuring The Silk Cup Derby Trial.
2.00 Little Misses and the Mister Men (r).
4.35 Laurel and Hardy. 'Knight Mare' (r).
4.40 The Record Breakers with Roy Castle, Fiona Kennedy and Norris McWhirter (r).
5.05 Rantaboo. Carping time after the vanished chairs vanish (r).
5.30 Paddies Up. Final of BBC TV's international dancing contest on two tricky stretches of the floor. Tynnyrwen in North Wales.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News followed by Weather News.
6.35 London Plus.
7.00 Wogan. Guested Victor Borge and Liza Goddard and the suffragan bishops of Lewes and Jarrow, the twins Peter and Michael Ball.
7.40 Cover Up. Melissa, the "black widow", escapes from jail and vows to get even with Jack and Dani. Last episode of series. (Cee-fax).
8.25 How to Shoot Sharks. The career of Australian divers Ron and Val Taylor who began as spear gun hunters and progressed to shooting films. Ron was the first person to film the most dangerous shark, the Great White, in the wild. They returned to film it in awesome close-up for Jack Plenti of spectacular action from in and around the Great Barrier Reef - with humans as bait.
8.50 Points of View. Nanette Newman with viewers' comments on BBC programmes.
9.00 The Nine O'Clock News.
9.25 Come on Down! Barry Norman goes to the United States, the land of a thousand game shows, to discover the secrets of this cheap and cheerful format. Unlike Britain, the prizes can be substantial. His final call is to a Hollywood church hall for auditions for a nude game show on Playboy's cable channel.
10.15 Omnibus at the Proms. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lorin Maazel plays one work: the Symphony Fantastique by Hector Berlioz.
11.20 The Late Film: Don't Look Now. Michael Foy's 1973 psycho thriller is a cinema classic. Adapted from a short story by Daphne du Maurier, it stars Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie as the parents who go to Venice to recuperate after the accidental drowning of their young daughter. They meet two elderly English sisters who claim to be able to communicate with the dead child. There follows a chilling series of events... (Cee-fax). Weather, 1.10-1.15.

TV-am

- 6.15 Good Morning Britain with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Guest, singer John Carr. News at 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Sport at 8.30 and 7.57. Home for the Holidays with Chris Tarrant at 7.15 and 8.45. Jani Barriett's Postbag, 8.15. Jimmy Graveney's TV highlights, 8.40. The CWRAAS summer spectacular with Roland Rat, 9.03.
9.25 Thames News headlines. Remi enters the service of a gardener.
11.05 Home. The Westmore residents have difficulty finding work (r).
11.30 About Britain. One Week in May. Final programme about the liberation of the Channel Islands.
12.00 Haggerty Haggerty written by Elizabeth Lindsay (r).
12.30 All in a Day's Walk. Naturalists David Erwin and Philip Daughtry stroll from Fairhead to Cuckneydon (r).
1.00 News at 1.30. Thames News.
1.30 Friday Matinee: The Luck of a young boy (Vincent Winter) is inadvertently locked in a bank's time vault. Suspense mounts as the rescue attempts increasingly desperate. Robert Beatty and Betty McDowall take the lead roles, with Sean Connery billed as second witness. Directed in 1987 by Gerald Thomas.
3.00 The Adventurer. Gene in yet more danger (r).
3.25 Thames News headlines.
3.30 Sons and Daughters. A wedding day (r).
4.00 Children's ITV presented by Harry and Dawn from No 73. Rainbow. Fun, games and daydreams. (Orca), 4.15 Victor and Marie. The Umbrella (r).
4.25 Emu's World. Rod Hull's special brand of magic and puppetry (r).
4.50 The Joke Machine. The Kwikies.
5.15 The Cartoon Alphabet with Tim Brooke-Taylor.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames Weekend News.
6.15 Police 5. Crime detection with Shaw Taylor.
6.35 The Zodiac Game. Commonplace but awkward situations for the guests.
7.05 Doctor at Large. Third of the Doctor films, with Dirk Bogarde setting a stimulating new partner in the form of Muriel Pavlow as Joy. Dr Simon Sparrow leaves St Swinith's Hospital after losing the post of house surgeon - but the country practice he joins soon becomes a force. With James Robertson as Justice as Sir Lancelot Spratt and Donald Sinden as Benkiss.
9.00 Shine on Harvey Moon. Harvey (Kenneth Cranham) is having difficulties with the Libby-Ruby and Mary (Elizabeth Spriggs) is having a personal problem with Geoff (Orca).
10.00 News at Ten followed by London news headlines.
10.30 Continental Movie Order to Mr. Professional Killer Clyde Hart rebels after discovering that his next victim is to be an old friend, Hart, a US Army deserter, although involved with drugs, arms and gambling, has some principles. Hart's life is in jeopardy after his assistant, Richard (Liam Luis Gallardo) accepts the contract. Directed in 1974 by Anthony Asquith.
12.10 In Concert. Tina Turner recorded at Devil's Lake, Ontario.
1.10 Night Thoughts with Therese Varian of the L'Arche Community followed by Closedown.

ITV/LONDON

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THE BILLION-DOLLAR TIME BOMB

(BBC 2, 7.45pm). Jeremy Evans's documentary about an American-made shock wave round the world, is a longer-than-usual edition of the Out of Court series which specialises in real-life legal dramas. Given its subject matter, and the extraordinary lengths it goes to in order to give both sides in the alarming affair a fair hearing, there was no way it could have fitted into a half-hour slot. A "special" it calls itself. A "special" is most certainly what it is. What is already known about the so-called Dalkon Shield, an intra-uterine device the film rightly describes as looking more like a fishing tackle than the work of birth control scientists, is that thousands of women have blamed it for serious pelvic infections. Eighteen American women have died. Others have lost the ability to conceive. All along, the

CHOICE

manufacturers, A. H. Robbins, have denied liability, but of the 55 cases brought against them in the US courts, they have lost 32. All this is well-documented history. The new sensations explored by Jeremy Evans's film concern allegations of conspiracy, cover-up and fraud, not only by the manufacturers but by their insurance coverers. What is more, this first-time bracketing of insurers and makers is the result of a new case brought by a British woman. She claims the contraceptive device has prevented her having more children, and she is seeking punitive damages of 100 million dollars.
● Don't be put off by the fact that HARDBALL (BBC 2, 9.30pm) is about an American baseball club's

campaign to achieve a new identity and bigger ticket sales. It is a first-rate analysis of what the Americans call "get up and go". Sadly, the marketing men brought in by the club's new bosses put up a better show than the baseball players. And, wisely, Hardball does not look for parallels with cricket beyond sponsorship and one-day matches. ● Music highlights: Lorin Maazel, the Pittsburgh SO and Berio's Symphony Fantastique (light and sound, BBC 1, 10.15pm; sound only, Radio 3, 8.30pm); Bryan Crisp's portrait of Sir Malcolm Sargent (Radio 4, 8.45pm); and Brian Haines' slender Ruth Etang, inaccurately impersonated on screen by Doris Day in Love Me or Leave Me. Now we can hear what she really sounded like.

Peter Davalle



Lorin Maazel: BBC 1, 10.15pm and Radio 3, 8.30pm

BBC 2

- 6.30 Open University. Energy from Waste. 6.55 Stressed materials. Wings. 7.20 Weekend Outlook.
8.00 Pages from Cee-fax.
8.15 Racing and Show Jumping. Racing from Goodwood. 2.30 The Long Hall Nursery Stakes. 3.00 The Waterford. 3.30 The Waterford. 4.00 The Waterford. 4.30 The Waterford. 5.00 The Waterford. 5.30 The Waterford. 6.00 The Waterford. 6.30 The Waterford. 7.00 The Waterford. 7.30 The Waterford. 8.00 The Waterford. 8.30 The Waterford. 9.00 The Waterford. 9.30 The Waterford. 10.00 The Waterford. 10.30 The Waterford. 11.00 The Waterford. 11.30 The Waterford. 12.00 The Waterford. 12.30 The Waterford. 1.00 The Waterford. 1.30 The Waterford. 2.00 The Waterford. 2.30 The Waterford. 3.00 The Waterford. 3.30 The Waterford. 4.00 The Waterford. 4.30 The Waterford. 5.00 The Waterford. 5.30 The Waterford. 6.00 The Waterford. 6.30 The Waterford. 7.00 The Waterford. 7.30 The Waterford. 8.00 The Waterford. 8.30 The Waterford. 9.00 The Waterford. 9.30 The Waterford. 10.00 The Waterford. 10.30 The Waterford. 11.00 The Waterford. 11.30 The Waterford. 12.00 The Waterford. 12.30 The Waterford. 1.00 The Waterford. 1.30 The Waterford. 2.00 The 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